THE FANTASTIC FOUR®

MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WITH JOHN ROMITA

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

THE Fantastic FOUR

VOLUME 10

COLLECTING

THE FANTASTIC FOUR Nos. 94-104

& FANTASTIC FOUR: THE LOST ADVENTURE

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INTRODUCTION
BY STAN LEE

Hi, Heroes!

Well, this is it! This is the one I've been looking forward to—and dreading, at the same time.

Looking forward because we're finally in double digits. I mean, can you imagine, it's the tenth edition of the good ol' FF Masterworks. Hey, that's gotta be some sort of comic book record, right?

But, I've also been dreading it because it completes my run with Jack. Issue #102 was when Jack reluctantly decided it was time to let someone else play in the *Fantastic Four* playground while he went on to other projects. But we both knew it would be fun to see if any other team could beat our unbroken record for a string of more than 100 consecutive issues.

And I've just gotta say it. They weren't just over 100 normal comic book issues. No way! I've just reread most of the stories and, even though it'll sound swell-headed, I've gotta tell you—they're as good or better than any comic books before or after! I'll admit I'm prejudiced, but I dare you to read these strips and tell me I'm wrong!

Speaking of the strips themselves, the FF is probably the only comic book in which two of the main characters get married and then have a baby who becomes part of the ongoing legend. Yep, in issue 94 you're gonna meet Franklin Benjamin Richards, and you'd better not go kootchy-kootchy-koo around him because super hero kids don't dig that kind'a stuff.

Y'know, my own daughter was growing up about the time that baby Franklin made his appearance, so writing about Reed and Sue's little baby took on an extra dramatic meaning for me.

But let me give you a small inkling about the great stuff that you're gonna find on the pages ahead. (I know the writer isn't supposed to say how great the stories are, but hey, let's face it, I happen to be my biggest fan!)

Right off, you're gonna meet Agatha Harkness, the most mysterious babysitter of all time. Then, to add some additional excitement, the Frightful Four decide to drop in for some deadly fun and games.

The next few issues, starting with the Mad Thinker and his Androids of Death, gave Jack and me a chance to return to the grand and gory days of our old monster strips. No matter what else we might have produced, we always had a warm spot in our mixed-up little hearts for mad scientists and macabre monsters.

Then, once we got The Monster from the Lost Lagoon out of the way, it seemed like a good idea to take our burgeoning band of bantering heroes to the moon. After all, I figured it would be easier for Jolly Jack to draw some simple moonscapes than the usual elaborate and exotic backgrounds for which he was justly famous. Face it, even the King deserved a break now and then.

Y'know, Jack and I tried to keep our strip as topical as possible. So what could be more natural than to have the FF try to save the Apollo 11 moon mission. Once again, ol' Kirby's artwork was so great that I got airsick just lookin' at it!

I've always thought that one of the great things about the Fantastic Four is the way they introduced other new characters who were so exciting, so colorful, so interesting that they really deserved to be in books of their own. Right at the head of that luminous list is the uncanny Inhumans. Man, how I loved those guys! Just between us, I never understood why the powers that be at mighty Marvel didn't give Black Bolt and his somewhat peculiar playmates a book of their own as soon as they saw how magnificently Jack drew them—especially after the ton of fan mail came pouring in. But, there's always tomorrow.

I can't wait till you get to issue #100! If you think it was easy getting all those super-villains in one story, you're dead wrong. But, if you think it was fun, go to the head of the class. Just between us, I always marveled (my favorite word!) at how Jack could remember all the characters he had drawn over the years. I had trouble even recalling their names, but he remembered every little feature and costume and weapon and intricate detail of each and every one of them. I sometimes suspected that he hadn't really designed them at all—for all I knew, he had a big barn in back of his house where he kept them all locked up until he needed them to pose for him!

And how about our three-part epic beginning with ish #102, which pits the fighting FF against two of literature's all-time greatest characters, the Sub-Mariner and Magneto! Of course, since we always try to give Comicdom Assembled its money's worth, we even included a guest appearance by President Richard Nixon. I was sure he'd give Marvel some sort of award for that, but I guess he was just too busy to read that issue. Oh well, it was his loss.

I'm sure the sharp-eyed among you noticed something odd. The last two issues, #s 103 and 104, were drawn by Jazzy Johnny Romita. You can see why he too has become a comic book legend when you realize that it's hard to tell that there's a different artist on the strip. Any time he had to pinch-hit for another artist, he could do it so magnificently that the reader couldn't even tell the difference except for the fact that I always insisted that every strip bear the name of the artist who drew it. We may not always have pleased every reader with every story, but we always did our best to level with our fans. You see, we're fans, also, so we know how you feel.

Well, I really feel kind'a sad about ending this intro, because the FF means so much to me. As you probably know, they were the first of the mighty Marvel pantheon of comic book Masterworks. They set the pace, they set the style and made it all begin. Truly, there'll always be new, terrific super heroes coming along, but there'll never be another Fantastic Four—and you can take that to the bank!

EXCELSIOR!

2006

FANTASTIC FOUR

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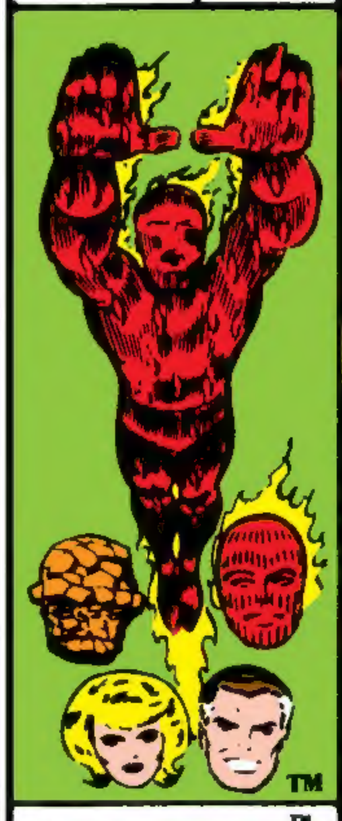


MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE RETURN OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

THE FABULOUS F.F. ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, DURING...

THE RETURN OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

SO YA FINALLY PICKED A *MONIKER* FOR THE KID, HUH?

WELL, HOW'S ABOUT CLUIN' A FELLA *IN?*

WE'VE DECIDED TO CALL HIM *FRANKLIN*... AFTER HIS *GRAND-FATHER!*

FRANKLIN B. RICHARDS WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN *MATCH-HEAD*... OR *STRETCHO!*

DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN SO *PROUD!* ...IF ONLY HE WERE *ALIVE,* TO BE HERE!

WHY DO YOU NOT PICK HIM *UP,* BEN?

SEE HOW HE REACHES *OUT* TO YOU!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:
STAN LEE *and* JACK KIRBY

INKING: JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

AWW, I AIN'T MUCH FOR KIDDIN' AROUND WITH *KIDS!*

SOMETHING *WRONG*, BEN? YOU SOUND KINDA *DISAPPOINTED!*

HECK *NO!* WHAT'S TA BE WRONG?

SO YA FINALLY *NAMED* THE KID! SO OKAY! YA WANT I SHOULD HAND OUT *MEDALS?*

BY THE WAY, SUE... DID YOU MENTION WHAT HIS *MIDDLE INITIAL* STANDS FOR?

HOW *SILLY* OF ME! IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED MY *MIND!*

HIS MIDDLE NAME, OF COURSE, IS... *BENJAMIN!*

BENJAMIN! THAT'S ME!

C'MON... HAND 'IM *OVER* TO HIS UNCLE BENJY!

KITCHEEE KITCHEEE COO! KITCHEEE COO!

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T *LIKE* TO KID AROUND WITH KIDS, BEN!

HECK! THAT WUZ BEFORE I KNOWED HIS *NAME!*

NOBODY... EVER NAMED *NOTHIN'!*.. AFTER ME BEFORE!

NOW... ALL OF A SUDDEN... I FEEL LIKE PART OF... A *FAMILY*... 'STEAD OF A *FREAK SHOW!*

BUT NOW, IT'S TIME TO TAKE HIM *UP-STATE*... WHERE WE'VE ENGAGED A *CHILD-REARING SPECIALIST* TO LOOK AFTER HIM!

WHO NEEDS SOME CRUMMY *SPECIALIST?* WHAT'SAMATTER WITH *US?*

UNTIL WE *GIVE UP* OUR LIVES OF *DANGER*, BEN... THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL BE SAFER *ELSE-WHERE!*

AND, SPEAKING OF *DANGER*...

SO! YA FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO *MONITOR* THE FF, HUH, WIZ?

YES! WHEN THE *FRIGHTFUL FOUR* NEXT STRIKE AT THEM--- WE MUST LEAVE *NOTHING* TO CHANCE!

NO ONE WOULD THINK TO *LOOK* FOR THE CHILD IN SUCH A LONELY SPOT!

NUTS! I *STILL* THINK THE KID WOULD BE SAFER WITH *US!*

BUT OKAY, *YOU'RE* HIS OLD MAN... SO SUIT YERSELF!

HEY! YOU AIN'T FIGURIN' ON GOIN' AFTER THE *KID*, ARE YA?

I'M NO *PERCY PUREHEART*...BUT FIGHTIN' *INFANTS* AIN'T MY LINE!

FOOL! IT ISN'T THE *CHILD* I'M AFTER--!

I MERELY SEEK *REVENGE*... REVENGE ON THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* IN ANY WAY I CAN *GET* IT!

AND *YOU*, SANDMAN... YOU WILL *NOT QUESTION* ... FOR IT WAS *I* WHO GAVE BACK YOUR *POWER* AFTER YOUR BATTLE WITH THE *HULK* HAD TURNED YOUR LIMBS TO *GLASS!**

* WE WOULDN'T KID YOU! IT WAS IN *HULK#114*!...STAN.

AND NOW, I SEE THAT THE *TRAPSTER* HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS MISSION!

IT WAS A *BREEZE*, WIZ! SOON AS SHE HEARD WE WERE GONNA TACKLE THE FF, *MEDUSA* CAME A'RUNNIN'!

THEN THE *FRIGHTFUL FOUR* SHALL FIGHT *AGAIN!*

MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY HOUSE, ATOP A LONELY HILL...

PATIENCE, EBONY... PATIENCE! THEY WILL *BE* HERE SOON!

ALTHOUGH I HAVE LIVED IN *RETIRE-MENT* FOR YEARS...

I COULD NOT SAY *NO* TO MY NEWEST CHARGE... WHEN I LEARNED THE IDENTITY OF HIS *PARENTS!*

I THINK WE ARE DUE FOR SOME *INTEREST-ING* MOMENTS, MY PET!

LATER, IN THE TEETH OF A MOUNTING *STORM*, WE FIND...

YOU PICKED A *HECKUVA* NIGHT FOR A JOY-RIDE, MISTER!

DON'T WORRY, BEN! SINCE JOHNNY *MODIFIED* THE FANTASTI-CAR, SHE CAN WEATHER A GALE LIKE THIS WITH *EASE!*

YOU DON'T THINK I'D TAKE LITTLE *FRANKLIN* IF IT WASN'T *SAFE?*

I THOUGHT YOU WUZ GONNA CALL HIM *BENJY*, AFTER MY FAVORITE ...*HEY!!* NOW WHAT?

JUST AN *UP-DRAFT*, OLD FRIEND! WE'RE OKAY!

ANYWAY, FOR A MAN WHO WAS ONE OF THE TOP *FIGHTER PILOTS* OF WORLD WAR TWO, YOU'RE MIGHTY *JITTERY* THESE DAYS!

ME? I AIN'T GOT A JITTERY BONE IN MY WHOLE, LOVEABLE LITTLE *BODY!*

I'M JUST PLAIN *SCARED!*

HEY! UP ON THAT *HILL* ...THAT JOINT LOOKS LIKE *DRACULA'S* DREAM HOUSE!

THAT "JOINT" IS THE HOME OF *AGATHA HARKNESS*, ATOP *WHISPER HILL*...

IT'S THE PLACE TO WHICH WE'RE BRINGING THE *BABY!*

GOSH, SIS... WHEN REED SAID NOBODY WOULD BE APT TO *FIND* THIS PLACE, HE SURE WASN'T *KIDDING!*

IT'S JUST WHAT WE *WANTED*, JOHNNY... IT'S SECLUDED, SERENE, AND I PRAY THAT IT'S *SAFE!*

DON'T JUDGE A PLACE BY ITS *LOOKS*, BEN! MISS *HARKNESS* HAPPENS TO HAVE A WORLD-FAMOUS *REPUTATION!*

YEAH? FOR *WHAT?* BEIN' THE TOP *GRAVEYARD MANAGER* OF THE YEAR?

LET'S GO *IN!* I'M SURE WE'LL TAKE HER TO OUR *HEARTS* AS SOON AS WE *MEET* HER!

WHO'S GONNA OPEN THE DOOR... *BARNABAS*, OR *QUASIMODO?*

I AM *AGATHA HARKNESS*... AND THIS IS *EBONY!* YOU MAY *ENTER!*

SHE REMINDS ME OF THAT DAME IN THE *FAIRY TALE*...

..WHO INVITED KIDS INTO HER COTTAGE... AND MADE *COOKIES*, OUTTA THEM!

QUIET, BEN! SHE MIGHT *HEAR* YOU!

WE'RE SO *HAPPY* THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER LITTLE FRANKLIN FOR US, MISS HARKNESS!

I *HAD* BEEN IN *RETIREMENT*, MRS. RICHARDS...

BUT, HAVING *HEARD* OF YOU...AND YOUR LITTLE *GROUP*, I JUST COULD NOT REFUSE!

IN WHICH ROOM... WILL THE BABY *STAY*, MISS HARKNESS?

I SHALL KEEP HIM WITH *ME*, OF COURSE... AS I HAVE DONE WITH *ALL* MY CHARGES!

AND NOW, SINCE IT IS TOO *LATE*... AND TOO *STORMY* FOR YOU TO LEAVE TONIGHT...LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR *ROOMS*...

I TRUST YOU WILL *FORGIVE* THE DARKENED CORRIDORS...MY EYES ARE *SENSITIVE* TO BRIGHT LIGHTS!

I TRUST YOU TWO GENTLEMEN WILL BE COMFORTABLE *SHARING* A GUEST ROOM!

SURE! IF HE SNORES I'LL *CLOBBER* 'IM!

THIS SHOULD BE *FINE*, MISS HARKNESS!

I ALWAYS *TOLD* YA, KID...THAT HUMAN *RUBBERBAND* IS OUTTA HIS TREE FER *SURE!*

I WOULDN'T EVEN LET THAT OLD CROW TAKE CARE'A MY *AUNT PETUNIA!*

WELL, I'LL *ADMIT* SHE'S NOT EXACTLY A BUNDLE OF *LAUGHS*, BENJY!

LAUGHS?!! EVEN HER *PAINTINGS* ARE FRESH OUTTA A LATE SHOW *HORROR* FLICK!

I'LL BET HER IDEA OF A *FUN EVENIN'* IS GOIN' TO A SWINGIN' *FUNERAL!*

SUDDENLY...

I'M FALLIN' THRU!

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED? THE WHOLE BLASTED *WALL* IS TURNIN' AROUND...

ONLY *ONE* THING LEFT TO HAPPEN NEXT...

I'LL SIT 'N WAIT FER *VINCENT PRICE* TA SHOW UP!

YEOW!

SOMETHIN' HIT MY BACK... STICKIN' TO IT... PUSHIN' ME UP... TO THE CEILIN'!

CAN'T EVEN REACH BACK THERE... TO GIT IT OFF!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TA DO NOW?

MERELY REMAIN THERE... HELPLESS AND INEFFECTUAL... BECAUSE OF MY ANTI-GRAV DISC!

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, WIZ! YOU GOT 'IM FIRST CRACK OUTTA THE BOX!

NOW THERE'S ONLY THREE MORE TO GO!

THE WIZARD... AND SAND-MAN! I SHOULDA GUESSED!

LOOK! THE FOOL IS STILL STRUGGLING!

THEN I'LL SIMPLY PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY!

A DOUBLE-INTENSITY BLAST FROM MY POWER GLOVE SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

BULL'S EYE!

AFTER ALL... WE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED HIM TO TEAR DOWN THE *HOUSE!*

...FOR HE MIGHT HAVE DISTURBED THE *BABY!*

THAT OUGHTTA KEEP 'IM OUT TILL... *HEY!* LOOK *THERE!*

A *FLAME, PROBE!* IT'S THE *TORCH!*

LET'S *GET* 'IM... BEFORE HE CAN *REALLY* FLAME ON!

A *SIMPLE* MATTER FOR ONE WHO CAN *FLY!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CREEPS *GOT* HERE... BUT I'M SURE GONNA MAKE YOU WISH THAT YOU *HADN'T!*

TOO LATE, PUNK! I'M 'WAY *AHEAD* OF YOU--!

FLAME ON!

NOTHIN' CAN BURN WHEN IT'S COVERED BY A FAST-HARDENING BLANKET OF *SAND!*

UNNHHH!

WHILE, DOWN THE HALL...

STAY HERE, SUE! I DON'T LIKE WHAT I HEARD!

WHAT IS IT, REED?

HAS IT ANYTHING TO DO WITH...THE BABY?

DON'T GET ALARMED, DEAR! I JUST WANT TO---

THE DOOR! IT'S JAMMED! I--I CAN'T OPEN IT!

THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE... SOMEONE TRYING TO LOCK US IN!

BUT WHO? WHY?

COMPLIMENTS OF THE TRAPSTER, LADY...AND HIS POKEY LITTLE PASTE GUN!

ZZZZZZ

WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS---AND IT WAS SURE WORTH IT!

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NEXT?

JUST WATCH ME, DOLL!

I FIGGERED RICHARDS WOULD TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT---

BUT A FAT LOTTA GOOD IT'S GONNA DO HIM!

YOU... PASTED HIS HAND...RIGHT TO THE DOOR!

AND, WE DON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT THE *INVISIBLE GIRL!* I ALREADY PASTED ALL THE *WINDOWS* SHUT... SO SHE CAN'T GET *OUT!*

THUS, WITHIN A MATTER OF *MINUTES,* WE HAVE RENDERED THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SUPER-TEAM TOTALLY *HELPLESS!*

AND *NOW... FOLLOW ME!*

WHAT... DO YOU PLAN TO *DO?*

DISPOSE OF THEM, OF COURSE --- ONCE AND FOR *ALL!*

... IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE GREATEST CRIMINAL BRAIN OF *ALL TIME!*

THEN, *THIS* IS THE TIME FOR *MEDUSA* TO STRIKE!

WHAT?? YOU DARE TURN AGAINST YOUR *ALLIES?!!*

ALLIES?!! I'D SOONER TEAM UP WITH A NEST OF SERPENTS!

I MERELY JOINED YOU SO THAT I'D BE ON HAND TO HELP THE FF... IF THE NEED AROSE!

YOU CALL YOURSELVES MEN? YOU'RE MONSTERS ...EVERY ONE OF YOU!

IT SERVES US RIGHT FOR EVER TRUSTING A DAME LIKE YOU!

BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO GLOAT OVER THE WAY YOU FOOLED US!

WHA..?!! YOUR HAIR! EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW... IT COULD MOVE SO FAST!

ZATT

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? ANY ONE OF US CAN TAKE HER! JUST WATCH THIS..!

YOUR AIM IS OFF... YOU'LL MISS HER!

RELAX, WIZ! I WANTED IT TO RICOCHET OFF THE WALL!

LOOK HOW THE SAND GRAINS ARE BLINDIN' HER!

GOOD! GOOD! SHE MUSTN'T USE HER HAIR! QUICK... PASTE IT DOWN, SO SHE CANNOT HINDER US!

THEN, AFTER THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF... I WILL TEACH HER THE HIGH PRICE OF... TREASON!

BUT NOW WE MUST MOVE FAST... BEFORE THEY CAN BREAK FREE!

ENOUGH! THAT WILL HOLD HER! NOW, FOLLOW ME!

IF YOU GET AN ITCH, LET US KNOW, DOLL! WE'LL WORRY OURSELVES SICK!

LOOK! THERE'S AN OLD DAME AT THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS!

KEEP MOVING, YOU FOOL! YOU DON'T THINK SHE CAN STOP US?

I WARN YOU! YOU MUST COME NO FURTHER!

EVEN NOW, EBONY'S HACKLES START TO RISE!

IT'LL TAKE FAR MORE THAN AN ALLEY CAT TO STOP THE WIZARD!

AH, BUT EBONY *IS*...

FAR, FAR *MORE*...

THAN JUST AN *ALLEY CAT!*

BEFORE MY *EYES*... IT KEEPS *GROWING*... I'VE GOT TO *FLY*... GOT TO GET *AWAY*..!!

KKRASH!

THERE'S NO *ESCAPING* IT--- NO MATTER WHERE I *GO*!!

WHILE, BACK IN THE CANDLE-LIT *CORRIDOR*...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YA *DID* THAT, LADY... BUT ME AND THE *TRAPSTER* DON'T THINK IT'S *FUNNY*, SEE?

HUMOR HAS NEVER EXACTLY BEEN MY *FORTE*, YOUNG MAN!

BUT, SURELY, YOU WOULDN'T THREATEN A FRAIL OLD LADY LIKE *MYSELF*?

SANDMAN! WHAT'S SHE *DOING*? WHY IS SHE WAVING HER *ARMS* LIKE THAT?

I *DUNNO!* BUT... ALL OF A SUDDEN... MY *OWN* ARM IS BEGINNIN' TO FEEL LIKE *LEAD!* I.. CAN'T EVEN... *LIFT* IT!

LOOK OUT! YOUR BODY'S GETTING *ROCK HARD!* YOU'RE... FALLING *BACK* AGAINST ME! YOU'LL CRUSH ME TO THE *WALL!*

WHO CARES ABOUT *YOU*? MY WHOLE BODY'S... GETTIN' LIKE... *STONE!*

HAVE TO GET *AWAY!* HAVE TO *ESCAPE!!* ALL OF A SUDDEN... THE WORLD'S GONE *CRAZY!*

WAIT! DON'T *GO!* *HELP* ME... DON'T *LEAVE* ME!

SOMETHING *FOLLOWING* ME! SOMETHING *BIG... GIGANTIC!*

NOW IT'S UP *AHEAD*... *BLOCKING* ME! I CAN'T GET *OUT*... NO PLACE TO *RUN!*

BUT WHAT... WHAT *IS* IT? WHERE DID IT *COME* FROM?

IT'S *TOO BIG!* NOT EVEN MY *PASTE GUN* COULD STOP IT!

STAY *BACK!* YOU HAVE TO... *STAY BACK!*

NO! NO!

NOOOOO!

AND THEN, THE *SCREAMING* STARTS...THOUGH *NO SOUND* ESCAPES HIS LIPS...!

BEN... WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT *HAPPENED?*

BEATS *ME!* I JUST BUMPED *INTA* THIS NUT... AND HE ACTED LIKE I WUZ *KING KONG!*

I KNOW I AIN'T A RAVIN' *BEAUTY*, BUT HE'S SEEN ME *BEFORE*... SO WHY THE *PANIC BUTTON?*

IF YA ASK ME, *NOTHIN'* MAKES ANY *SENSE* AROUND HERE, ANYWAY!

I JUST *FREED* MYSELF WHEN THE *SAND* THAT WAS COVERING ME SUDDENLY *CRUMBLED* AWAY!

SAME THING HAPPENED TA *ME!* WHEN I CAME *TO* AGAIN, THAT CRUMMY *DISC* FELL OFFA MY BACK, 'N HERE I *AM!*

BUT, IT'S NOT LIKE THE *FRIGHTFUL FOUR* TO BE SO *CARELESS* WITH THEIR WEAPONS!

LOOK-- WHY *KNOCK* IT, JUNIOR?

JOHNNY! *JOHNNY!* ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*

HEY! IT'S *MEDUSA!*

DID THEY TRY TO PUT *YOU* OUT OF ACTION, TOO?

YES! BUT, LUCKILY, THE TRAPSTER'S *PASTE* HAS ALL BUT *DISINTEGRATED!*

WHAT OF MY *SISTER? CRYSTAL*... IS SHE *ALL RIGHT?*

DON'T *WORRY*... SHE STAYED BACK IN THE *CITY* THIS TRIP!

IF YA ASK *ME*... THAT'S WHAT WE *ALL* SHOULDA DONE!

HEY---THERE'S **SAND-MAN!** LOOKS LIKE HE'S POSIN' FER SOME KINDA **AURORA PLASTICS AD!**

HE'S STIFF AS A **BOARD!** IS IT **HIM**... OR A BLASTED **STATUE?**

IT IS **HE**, MY FRIEND! BUT HE SEEMS TO BE **ENTRANCED!**

TELL YA **ONE** THING ---HE'D SURE MAKE A FAR-OUT **PAPER WEIGHT!**

WOW! TAKE A LOOK OUT **HERE!**

THAT'S THE **WIZARD!** BUT--- WHAT **HAPPENED** TO HIM?

WHATEVER IT WUZ---IT COULDN'TA HAPPENED TO A **BETTER** GUY!

HE MUSTA SHOT **OUTTA** HERE LIKE A **ROCKET,** AND ZONKED **WHAMMO** INTA THAT **TREE!**

THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE ALL **SAFE**...BUT WHERE IS **MISS HARKNESS**... AND THE **BABY?**

WE--- HAVEN'T **SEEN** THEM!

SUE AND I WERE SEALED IN OUR *ROOM*... BY THE *TRAPSTER*... UNTIL HIS PASTE JUST *MELTED!*

YEAH... WE KINDA *FIGGERED* THAT!

BUT...*MISS HARKNESS*... SHE'S ALONE WITH THE *BABY* ...WITH NO ONE TO *TURN* TO!

THIS IS THE ROOM... *HURRY!*

MISS HARKNESS! EVERYTHING SEEMS... *ALL RIGHT!*

WELL! I SHOULD *HOPE* SO, MR. RICHARDS!

NOW *PLEASE*... KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN! WE DON'T WANT TO WAKE THE *BABY!*

HE'S SLEEPING AS PEACE-FULLY AS A LITTLE *LAMB!*

IT'S JUST AS THOUGH... NOTHING EVEN *HAPPENED!*

IT SEEMS THAT *AGATHA HARKNESS* WAS THE PERFECT *CHOICE* FOR US AFTER ALL!

NOW, NOW... IT'S GETTING QUITE *LATE*, AND I'M SURE YOU MUST ALL BE *WEARY!*

SO WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S *SLEEP?*

AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE YOUR LONG JOURNEY *HOME* IN THE MORNING!

NOW WHAT WOULD AN OLD DAME LIKE *HER* BE DOIN' WITH A BATTY BOOK LIKE *THAT!*

TALES of OLD SALEM

SALEM! IN THE *OLDEN* DAYS, THAT'S WHERE... AWW, *NO!*

SUZIE 'N REED WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEIR PRIDE AND JOY IN THE CARE OF SOMEONE WHO WUZ... WHO WUZ... OR... *WOULD* THEY??

COME TA *THINK* OF IT... IF THEY WANTED TO BE SURE IT WUZ SOMEONE WHO COULD REALLY *PROTECT* THE KID...

IS SOMETHING *WRONG*, MR. GRIMM?

HUH? OH, *NO!* *NO!*

YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME SO *STRANGELY!*

ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK THAT I WERE... A *WITCH!*

AWW... WHO'D EVER IMAGINE... ANYTHING AS NUTTY AS *THAT?*

AHH... WHO *INDEED*, MY DEAR MR. GRIMM?

NEXT

TOMORROW-- WORLD WAR THREE!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ CC

95 FEB

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

IF THE F.F. FAILS, IT MEANS... WORLD WAR III!

THE FABULOUS F.F. MUST DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, OR ELSE--

TOMORROW--

WORLD WAR THREE!

INTRODUCING: THE MAN CALLED MONOCLE!

THERE-- ON THAT ROOFTOP-- THE ONE GROUP I MUST DESTROY IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN FOR CONQUEST!

SCRIPT & ART BY: STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

INKING: JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

ONLY THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* MIGHT SAVE THOSE WHOM I HAVE COME TO *DESTROY!*

IF THEY SHOULD DISCOVER THAT I AM A *SPY* RATHER THAN A *NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER*--THAT THIS *CAMERA* IS REALLY ONE OF EARTH'S MOST POTENT *WEAPONS*--!

HEY, *YOU!* THIS AREA IS FOR *U.N. DELEGATES* ONLY!

NO ONE'S ALLOWED HERE WITHOUT A *PASS!*

OH--SORRY, SIR--I DIDN'T *RECOGNIZE* YOU! YOU'RE WITH THE *FOREIGN PRESS CORPS!*

YOU *SHOWED* ME YOUR CREDENTIALS EARLIER TODAY!

YES--QUITE SO!

WELL, WE CAN'T BE TOO *CAREFUL!* SOME OF THE WORLD'S *TOP STATESMEN* WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SOON!

NATURALLY, YOU FOOL! IT IS *THEY* WHO ARE MY *TARGETS!*

WITHIN MY INNOCENT-LOOKING *CAMERA* IS THE MOST POTENT *NEUTRAK RAY* EVER CREATED!

THOSE I *SERVE* HAVE SPARED NO EXPENSE TO MAKE IT *FOOL-PROOF!*

AND WHAT BETTER WAY FOR THE *MONOCLE* TO TEST IT--THAN ON THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* THEMSELVES?

THERE THEY *STAND* UPON THEIR ROOFTOP-- SUSPECTING *NOTHING!*

WHERE'S *JOHNNY?* I TOLD HIM TO *BE* HERE!

HE ASKED TO BE *EXCUSED,* REED! HE AND *CRYSTAL* HAVE A SERIOUS *PROBLEM--!*

THE *INHUMANS* WANT HER TO *REJOIN* THEM-- AND JOHNNY IS DEAD SET *AGAINST* IT!

I UNDERSTAND! THEN WE'LL HAVE TO PROCEED *WITHOUT* HIM!

BIG DEAL! A *KID* COULD HANDLE THIS ASSIGNMENT!

WE'RE JUST GONNA BE GLORIFIED *BODYGUARDS* --MAKIN' SURE NO *HARM* COMES TO THEM U.N. BIGWIGS!

BUT IT'S VITALLY *IMPORTANT,* BEN! ONE TRAGIC *MISHAP* COULD TRIGGER OFF *WORLD WAR THREE!*

THERE ARE THOSE *INSANE* ENOUGH TO *WANT* A WAR-- FOR THEIR OWN TWISTED REASONS!

CLICK!

STAND AWAY FROM THE *ELEVA-LIFT* WHILE I RAISE THE *FANTASTI-CAR!*

WE'LL *USE* IT TO KEEP WATCH ON THE *CROWDS!*

IF ANY *TROUBLE* DEVELOPS, WE MOVE IN *AT ONCE!*

IF NOTHIN' *ELSE,* MEBBE WE'LL CATCH US A *JAY-WALKER* OR SOME-THIN'!

WHY ARE ALL THEM FANCY-PANTS AT THE *U.N.* TODAY, ANYWAY?

THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THOSE FLARE-UPS IN THE *MID-EAST*, BEN! IT CAN BE A *FUSE* THAT MAY IGNITE A *HOLOCAUST!*

KNOW SOMETHIN'? I'M SORRY I *ASKED!*

BEN IS RELEASING THE *MINI-PLANE* NOW, REED!

GOOD! WE'LL BE ABLE TO COVER A LARGER *AREA* THIS WAY!

IF YA FIND ANY BIG, BAD *VILLAINS*, STRETCHO CAN ALWAYS *TALK* 'EM TO DEATH!

THIS KINDA JOB CAN BE REAL *DANGEROUS*-- ON ACCOUNTA THE CRUMMY *AIR POLLUTION!*

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO *FIND* UP HERE, DEAR?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS *MINE*, HONEY--

BUT, THERE COULD BE ANY SORT OF *MURDERER* OR *MADMAN* IN THE TEEMING CROWDS BELOW--

NOW--WHILE THEY CRUISE OVER THE CITY-- THIS IS MY CHANCE TO *DESTROY* THEM!

AND THEN-- MY *PRIME* TARGET-- THE *U.N.* ITSELF!

ALTHOUGH TOTALLY *INVISIBLE*, MY RAY CAN SMASH THE *NEUTRONS* IN ANY METAL!

THE *ENGINE*-- PARTS OF IT *DISSOLVED!* WE--WE'RE *FALLING!*

WE MUSTN'T CRASH INTO THOSE *CROWDS* BELOW!

HANG ON, DARLING! I'VE *GOT* TO LEVEL HER OFF!

I'VE SWITCHED TO *AUXILLIARY* POWER!

OUR ONLY CHANCE--IS TO REACH THE *RIVER* IN TIME!

SHAFT

MICHIE

JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS *MORE*--

WE'LL *MAKE* IT! WE'VE *GOT* TO MAKE IT!

MOTORIST AND SEA LINE

NEW YORK SYSTEM

KRRASSH!

IT'S *ALL RIGHT*, SUE--DON'T STRUGGLE! I'LL CURL MYSELF TO *CUSHION* THE IMPACT!

MUSTN'T LET GO! I *MUSTN'T* LET GO!

STING! FTANG!

IT'S *OVER!* WE'VE LOST THAT DEADLY *MOMENTUM!*

THE SHIP CRASHED *HARMLESSLY* INTO THE SEA--AND WE'RE ALIVE--WE'RE *ALIVE!*

MEANWHILE--

A FAT LOTTA GOOD *THIS* IS DOIN'!

HOW CAN YA TELL A *GOOD GUY* FROM A *BAD GUY* UP HERE?

KRRRAKKK!

HERE'S WHERE LI'L *BENJY* GOES TO TOWN!

UH OH!

SOMETHIN' LIKE *THAT* CAN HURT A GUY!

I DUNNO WHAT WOULD MAKE A BLASTED BUILDIN' *FALL DOWN*--

BUT THIS AINT THE TIME FER *TWENTY QUESTIONS!*

I--*STOPPED* IT-- BUT--CAN'T *STAY* LIKE THIS--ALL DAY!

TESSEN

MY ONLY HOPE--IS TO *STRAIGHTEN* 'ER UP-- BEFORE SHE *CRUMBLES* --ALL OVER ME!

EASY, BENJY-- CAN'T LET 'ER *FALL!*

SHE'LL CRASH INTO THE BUILDIN'--ACROSS THE *STREET*--AND IT'S-- LOADED WITH--*PEOPLE!*

YOU *DID* IT! THERE'S NO TELLING *HOW* MANY LIVES YOU'VE SAVED!

OKAY, LADY-- WE'LL COUNT 'EM SOME *OTHER* TIME!

NOW HOW'S ABOUT GETTIN' ME SOME *HELP?*

I DON'T PLAN ON MAKIN' THIS A *LIFETIME JOB!*

CALL THE *POLICE!* WE NEED *HYDRAULIC JACKS!*

MY *NEUTRAK RAY* HAS DONE ITS JOB *MAGNIFICENTLY!*

IT HAS PUT *MR. FANTASTIC* AND HIS *WIFE* OUT OF ACTION--AND WILL KEEP THE *THING* PINNED DOWN UNTIL MY WORK IS *DONE!*

EEEEEEE

SIRENS! THE *DELEGATES* ARE ARRIVING! MY TIMING SO FAR HAS BEEN *FLAWLESS!*

HOW *GRIM* THEY LOOK--FOR WELL THEY KNOW THE *IMPORTANCE* OF THEIR MISSION!

BUT THEY WOULD LOOK GRIMMER *STILL*--IF THEY COULD SUSPECT THE *FATE* I HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM!

I AM *SORRY!* WE HAVE NO TIME TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS! BECAUSE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE *CRISIS,* OUR MEETING MUST BEGIN *IMMEDIATELY!*

OVER *HERE*, YOUR EXCELLENCY! GIVE US *ONE* SHOT, HUH?

I MUST WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE ALL SEATED WITHIN THE *GREAT HALL!*

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR *HASTE!* I CAN AFFORD TO *WAIT*--UNTIL THE MOMENT IS *MINE!*

BEFORE THE END OF DAY, I'LL HAVE STREWN THE SEEDS OF *TOTAL WAR!*

WHILE THE GREAT POWERS *DESTROY* THEMSELVES IN THE ATOMIC CATACLYSM, I--AND THOSE I SERVE-- WILL BE *SAFE* IN OUR UNDERGROUND SHELTERS!

THEN--WHEN THE CARNAGE HAS *ENDED*--WE WILL EMERGE--TO TAKE *CONTROL* OF THE HELPLESS PLANET!

AND I'LL NO LONGER BE THE *MONOCLE!* I'LL BE A *KING!*

THUS I PRIME MY "*CAMERA*" FOR ITS FATEFUL *NEUTRAK CHARGE!*

CLAKKK

AT THAT VERY MOMENT--ATOP THE WORLD-FAMED BAXTER BUILDING--

YOU'VE BEEN SO *SILENT*, DEAR!

I WAS *THINKING*, SUE! THINKING OF THE *JOLT* I FELT WHEN THE FANTASTI-CAR LOST POWER!

SOMETHING *STRUCK* US--SOME INVISIBLE *FORCE* WHICH AFFECTED THE SHIP'S METALLIC STRUCTURE!

I'VE ORDERED THE WRECKAGE *BROUGHT* HERE FOR ANALYSIS! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE *ANSWER* --AND *FAST!*

MEANWHILE, A FEW ROOMS AWAY--

YOU CAN'T *DO* IT, CRYS! YOU CAN'T *LEAVE* ME--TO GO BACK TO *THEM!*

OH, JOHNNY-- JOHNNY! DO YOU THINK I *WANT* TO GO?

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW THE THOUGHT OF US *PARTING* JUST BREAKS MY *HEART?*

BUT THE *INHUMANS* ARE--MY *FAMILY!* AND, IF THEY *NEED* ME--!

IT'S *YOUR* FAULT, MEDUSA! IF YOU HADN'T *COME* FOR HER--IF YOU'D JUST STAYED *AWAY!*

I *TOO* HAVE MY DUTY, JOHNNY STORM!

I WAS *ORDERED* TO COME HERE! IT IS *BLACK BOLT'S* WISH THAT MY SISTER *REJOIN* US!

THERE IS *NO MORE* THAT MAY BE SAID!

EVEN *NOW* THE DIMENSIONS ARE BRIDGED--THE BARRIER IS *DOWN!*

IT IS *TIME!* WE MUST TAKE THE *GREAT JOURNEY!*

NO! I WON'T LET YOU *DO* IT, CRYS! I WON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU *FROM* ME AGAIN!

RELEASE HER! YOU HAVE NOT THE *RIGHT!*

IF YOUR LOVE IS *TRUE*--IT WILL *STAND* THE TEST OF TIME!

IF *NOT*--IT IS FAR *BETTER* THIS WAY!

MEDUSA--YOU'RE CRYSTAL'S *SISTER*--I CAN'T *FIGHT* YOU--BUT DON'T *DO* IT, MEDUSA--*DON'T!*

FAREWELL, JOHNNY STORM! THERE IS *NO* OTHER WAY!

WAIT FOR ME, JOHNNY--I'LL COME *BACK* TO YOU--

CRYSTAL! CRYSTAL!

SHE'S GONE!

I JUST STOOD HERE-- AND LET HER TAKE--THE GIRL I LOVE!

JOHNNY, WHAT IS IT? WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? WHAT HAPPENED, SON?

CRYSTAL! WHERE IS SHE? WE LEFT HER HERE! WHERE DID SHE GO?

TO ANOTHER WORLD--AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!

IT WAS *MEDUSA*-- SHE SAID THE *INHUMANS* COMMANDED HER TO BRING CRYS *BACK!*

I KNOW HOW YOU *FEEL*, LAD--BUT WE'VE A *BIGGER* PROBLEM TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW--

--ONE THAT MAY AFFECT THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE *WORLD!*

IN YOUR HAT, MISTER! LET THE WORLD WORRY ABOUT *ITSELF* FOR A WHILE! IT'S TIME I STARTED LOOKING OUT FOR *NUMBER ONE!*

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, JOHNNY! THIS CITY IS LIKE A *TINDERBOX* RIGHT NOW--AND THERE'S A *KILLER* LOOSE--WITH A STRANGE, DEADLY *WEAPON!*

SO--DO WE *TACKLE* HIM--OR WOULD YOU RATHER *CRY* IN YOUR CHEERIE-OATS?

I'M *SORRY*, REED! I GUESS YOU'RE *RIGHT*--AS USUAL!

MAYBE A LITTLE *ACTION'S* WHAT I NEED--TO MAKE ME *FORGET!*

THAT'S MORE *LIKE* IT, SON!

THE MAN WE WANT IS *OUT* THERE SOMEWHERE-- CARRYING HIS *WEAPON!* BUT, HE'D HAVE TO *DISGUISE* IT SOMEHOW--

PERHAPS AS A *SUITCASE*-- OR A *CAMERA!*

I CAN'T STOP EVERYONE WHO'S CARRYING A *CASE*--OR A *CAMERA!*

BUT MAYBE-- IF I KEEP FLYING AROUND-- I'LL THINK OF *SOMETHING!*

IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A *NEEDLE* IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST *HAYSTACK!*

BUT *ANYTHING'S* BETTER THAN THINKING OF-- *CRYSTAL!*

WELL, WELL! THE FOURTH AND *FINAL* MEMBER OF THE ILL-FATED *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

HE'LL GIVE ME NO MORE TROUBLE THAN THE *OTHERS!*

ALL I NEED DO IS KEEP HIM *BUSY* FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES!

AFTER THAT, NOTHING ELSE WILL *MATTER!*

SOMETHING HIT THE *WATER TOWER!* IT'S *WOBBLING!*

HAVE TO USE MY *FLAME* TO WELD THE BASE-- AND *FAST!*

BUT, NO SOONER IS ONE JOB DONE, WHEN--

OH *NO!*

THE SAME THING'S HAPPENING TO THAT *BILLBOARD!*

AND THEN--

THIS IS *BATTY!* SOMEONE'S GETTING HIS *JOLLIES* AT MY EXPENSE!

BUT REED SAID THERE WAS A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE *WORLD!*

THEN, WHY WOULD ANYONE KEEP ME HOPPING ON *WILD GOOSE CHASES?*

--UNLESS IT'S TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM WHERE I *SHOULD* BE--

AND THE MOST *IMPORTANT* THING AFFECTING THE WORLD IS THE *MEETING* AT THE *U.N.* RIGHT NOW!

SO *OKAY,* HOT-HEAD --THAT'S YOUR *CUE!*

THUNG

IN VIEW OF THE EXTREME *GRAVITY* OF THE CRISIS WHICH FACES US--

I CALL UPON OUR *FIRST SPEAKER* WITH NO FURTHER DELAY!

MR. SECRETARY --AND MY FELLOW DELEGATES--

THE TIME HAS *ARRIVED!* ALL MY *PIGEONS* ARE ENCLOSED IN THEIR UNSUSPECTING LITTLE *COOP!*

ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO SNAP MY DEADLY *"PICTURE"!*

EACH WILL BLAME THE *OTHER* FOR WHAT FOLLOWS!

PRESS SECTION

THEN, TOTAL *WAR* WILL COME IN A MATTER OF *HOURS!*

MANY MUST DIE--SO THAT *WE*, THE FAVORED FEW, MAY *RULE!*

AND *NOW*--THE SPARK THAT WILL IGNITE *ATOMIC CHAOS!*

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE COLD-HEARTED SPY DEPRESS HIS FATEFUL LEVER, WHEN--

THAT *CAMERA* --IT *BLEW APART* IN HIS HANDS!

LOOK OUT!

SOMETHING *HAPPENED* TO THE *NEUTRAK RAY!*

SOMETHING *REVERSED* ITS ENERGY FLOW!!

SO! I'VE FLUSHED YOU OUT AT LAST!

NEUTRAK RAYS AREN'T NEW--I'VE WORKED WITH THEM FOR MONTHS! ONCE I REALIZED THE NATURE OF YOUR WEAPON, I HAD ONLY TO CREATE A REVERSAL RAY!

RICHARDS! YOU'VE MADE ME LOSE--A WORLD!

BUT I'LL NEVER BE TAKEN ALIVE!

CONCUSSION SHELLS! HAVE TO DODGE AROUND THEM--!

MISSED ME-- BUT THE SHOCK-- IS TOO GREAT--

SUE! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! ONLY YOU CAN STOP HIM!

THE FOOL WAS *DELIRIOUS* THERE IS NO ONE *HERE!*

THE GREAT *REED RICHARDS* --SHOUTING AT *SHADOWS!*

HE'S EVEN *GREATER* THAN YOU THINK!

OF *COURSE!* I FORGOT --THE *INVISIBLE GIRL!*

BUT, I NEEDN'T *SEE* SOMEONE TO FREE MYSELF WITH A *JUDO TWIST!*

HE *MEANT* IT ABOUT NOT BEING TAKEN *ALIVE!*

HE'S THROWN HIMSELF THRU THE *WINDOW--*

HE HASN'T A *CHANCE!* WE'RE MORE THAN *TWELVE* STORIES UP!

THE *MONOCLE* IS PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING!*

A TOUCH OF A *BUTTON* RELEASES MY *AIR-JET RODS--*

--WHILE THE *ROCKET GEAR* ON MY BACK WILL FLY ME SAFELY TO MY *ESCAPE SUB!*

HOLD IT, WHISKERS! YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME!

THE TORCH!

YOU WON'T GET FAR WITH MELTED JETS!

NO! NOOO!

COOL IT, CREEP! THE EVER-LOVIN' THING'LL CATCH YA!

OR MEBBE YA'D RATHER I WUZ STILL HOLDIN' UP THAT CRUMMY BUILDIN'!?

HUH? ALL OF A SUDDEN YA AINT GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY!

BEN CAUGHT HIM! HE'S --TURNING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!

THAT MEANS WE'VE WON! THE WORLD HAS A SECOND CHANCE!

--AND THIS TIME LET'S HOPE WE MAKE THE MOST OF IT.'

TO WHICH WE SAY--AMEN!

NEXT THE MAD THINKER AND HIS ANDROIDS OF DEATH!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ CC

96 MAR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four™

THE MAD THINKER AND HIS ANDROIDS OF DEATH!

HOW CAN THE F.F. SURVIVE WHEN THEY MUST BATTLE...THEMSELVES?

THE MAD THINKER AND HIS ANDROIDS OF DEATH!

DO YOU THINK THE *YANCY STREET GANG* IS TRYING TO *TELL* YOU SOMETHING WITH THAT *BOOK* THEY SENT YOU, BEN?

AWWW *SHADDUP!*

I'LL BET THEY'RE REALLY *FANS* OF YOURS...

BUT THEY WON'T *ADMIT* IT!

MUSCLES GALORE IN SIX EASY

PRODUCED & PRESENTED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE *and* JACK (KING) KIRBY

EMBELLISHMENT:
FEARLESS FRANK GIACOIA

LETTERING:
SWINGIN' SAMMY ROSEN

WELL, SEE YOU *LATER*, OLD FRIEND! I'M GIVING SUE A *LIFT* DOWN-TOWN!

YOU WON'T BE LONELY! *JOHNNY* SHOULD BE RETURNING FROM THE *AUTO RALLY* SOON!

OKAY, OKAY! I AIN'T A' SCARED TO *STAY* BY MYSELF!

MUSCLES GALORE IN SIX EASY LESSONS

HOW COME THEY NEVER ASK *ME* TA POSE FER THESE *PICTURES*?

HEY! TRY'N FIND US A *VILLAIN* OR SOMETHIN', WILL YA?

THIS *SUPERHERO* BUSINESS IS FER THE *BIRDS* WHEN THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TA *CLOBBER*!

SO THIS BOOK CAN TEACH YA HOW TO DEVELOP YER *MUSCLES*, HUH?

MEBBE I OUGHTTA *READ* IT SOME DAY...

...WHEN I GIT THE *TIME*!

HEY! THAT'S REAL GROOVY, BLUE EYES!

BUT WHAT DO YOU DO FOR AN ENCORE?

WELL, WELL! IF IT AIN'T OL HOT-HEAD, BACK FROM PLAYIN' WITH HIS KIDDIE-CARS!

INTERESTING... THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE PREDICTED YOU WOULD SAY!

HUH? WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' ABOUT, JUNIOR?

WHO PERDICTED THAT I'D SAY WHAT?

THE ONE WHO SENT ME HERE, OF COURSE!

SAY, LISTEN, MATCH-HEAD--- ARE YOU TRYIN' TA PUT ME ON OR SOMETHIN'?

WHAT ONE WHO SENT YA WHERE??

NO! I'M MERELY FOLLOWING ORDERS!

...AND NOW, SINCE IT IS EXACTLY 1:34---

...I MUST RENDER YOU UNCONSCIOUS, WITH A HEAT-POWERED STUN-BLAST!

IT IS DONE!

---JUST AS THE REAL HUMAN TORCH WAS AMBUSHED BY ME WITH AN ICE RAY AT THE RALLY!

YOU AIN'T THE TORCH! YOU'RE... SOME KINDA... ROBOT... WHO... UNHHHH...

ROBOT IS THE WRONG WORD, BEN GRIMM!

ANDROID WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE!

BUT NOW, IT IS TIME TO MAKE THE SUB-STITUTION!

THE TIME IS 1:36... EXACTLY AS COMPUTED!

ANDROID TO THINKER! DO YOU RECEIVE ME, THINKER?

OF COURSE I RECEIVE YOU!

I KNEW YOU WOULD CONTACT ME AT THIS PRECISE SECOND!

STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ALWAYS *DEFEATED* ME IN THE PAST... BECAUSE I OVERLOOKED SOME TINY *FACTOR!*

BUT *THIS* TIME THE THINKER HAS OVERLOOKED *NOTHING!*

THIS TIME THE VICTORY WILL BE *MINE!*

RICHARDS AND HIS WIFE WILL REACH THE *SHOPPING CENTER* IN EXACTLY 73 SECONDS!

LITTLE DO THEY *SUSPECT* THAT I HAVE ALREADY *TAMPERED* WITH THEIR RENTED CAR!

IT IS NOW 1:40... WHICH MEANS THEY ARE APPROACHING THE FATEFUL *INTERSECTION...*

THEREFORE, THE TIME HAS COME TO *RELEASE* MY FINAL TWO *PSEUDO-ANDROIDS...*

YOU ARE FULLY *PROGRAMMED!* PREPARE TO *ACT* IN 17 SECONDS!

WE SHALL NOT FAIL THE *THINKER!*

THE ULTRA-WAVE *SCANNER* WHICH I PLACED IN THEIR CAR IS STILL *UNDETECTED!*

SO FAR, ALL I HAVE *COMPUTED* HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT A HITCH!

STAND READY! IT IS 1:43½... *GO!*

WHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE SHOPPING CENTER...

I'LL SEE YOU AT *HOME*, DARLING!

THANKS FOR THE *LIFT*, HUSBAND MINE!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A *SHOPPING TOUR* TO LIFT A FEMALE'S SPIRITS!

...ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE MISSES HER LITTLE *SON* WHOM SHE WON'T SEE TILL THE *WEEK-END!*

I'D GIVE *ANYTHING* TO HAVE LITTLE *FRANKLIN* COOING IN MY ARMS RIGHT NOW!

THE *YOUNG MARRIEDS* BOUTIQUE, PLEASE?

THAT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR FRONT, MA'AM.

SECONDS LATER...

I'M IN *LUCK!* THEY'RE HAVING A *SALE* TODAY!

BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO *APPREHENSIVE*

...AS THOUGH MY *INTUITION* IS WARNING ME...OF *DANGER!*

SUE RICHARDS... YOU'RE *IMAGING* THINGS! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HARM ME *HERE?*

QUICKLY! TAKE HER AWAY...BEFORE THE *SHOPPERS* TURN AROUND!

TWELVE SECONDS TILL TWO! EVERYTHING IS AS THE *THINKER* PREDICTED!

NOW, ON THE *STROKE* OF THE HOUR, I MUST CONTACT *ANDROID A!*

ANDROID C CALLING ANDROID A!

MISSION EXECUTED AS PLANNED! STAND READY FOR *PHASE TWO!*

SYNCHRONIZE YOUR *SCHEDULE!* IT IS EXACTLY 2:01...

I WILL PROCEED TO PRE-PROGRAMMED POSITION TO ATTACK *REED RICHARDS!*

ACCORDING TO THE *THINKER*, THE VICTIM WILL ARRIVE IN EXACTLY 83 SECONDS!

HE HAS SELECTED A *PERFECT* AREA FOR OUR... *ENCOUNTER!*

TRAFFIC IN THIS SECTION IS UNUSUALLY *LIGHT*...

AND, EVEN IF ANYONE SHOULD *SEE* WHAT OCCURS...

MEN SUCH AS *THESE* ARE NOT LIKELY TO BECOME *INVOLVED!*

AND SO... ALL IS IN *READINESS!*

THE NEXT *TWENTY SECONDS* WILL BRING FORTH MY *TARGET!*

THE *FINAL* CAR IS JUST NOW PASSING...

JOSEPH HAIR DRESSER

ACCORDING TO THE THINKER'S *COMPUTER*, THE *NEXT* WILL BE DRIVEN BY...*REED RICHARDS!*

HE HAS *ARRIVED!*

AND NOW...HIS *BRAKES* WILL LOCK... AS PLANNED! HE WILL COME TO A *STOP*... RIGHT *HERE!*

GROCERY

SCREEE

I'M...BEING *SEIZED*... BY SOMEONE WHOSE BODY CAN *STRETCH* ...LIKE MY *OWN!*

I *CANNOT* FAIL!

ALL HAS BEEN COMPUTED WITH TOTAL *PERFECTION!*

BUT...HIS LIMBS FEEL *COLD*...AND *LIFELESS*... LIKE THOSE OF ...AN *ANDROID!*

YOUR STRUGGLES ARE *USELESS*, RICHARDS! I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR ONLY *ONE* PURPOSE...

TO DEFEAT YOU!

IT'S *OVER!*

THE TIME IS 2:11!

I'LL *LEAVE* HIM THERE TO BE PICKED UP LATER!

AS FOR *ME*, I'LL RETURN TO HOME BASE!

WHILE, IN THE *BAXTER BUILDING* ITSELF...

I'LL REACH THE *35TH FLOOR* IN HALF-A-MINUTE!

...WHERE MY TRIUMPHANT *ANDROIDS* ARE AWAITING ME!

NOW, THERE ARE *NONE* TO STOP ME FROM USING THIS SECRET *ELEVATOR!*

YOU HAVE SERVED ME *WELL*, MY PUPPETS!

THE PRIZE WILL SOON BE *MINE!*

WITHIN THE NEXT 5¾ MINUTES, MY *WORK CREW* WILL PICK UP THE FALLEN *REED RICHARDS*...AND THE *THING*, AS WELL!

THEN, THEY WILL BE *MINE*...MINE TO *DISPOSE* OF, FOREVER!

AND ALL *THIS*...ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT...AND THEIR *SECRETS*...WILL BELONG TO THE TRIUMPHANT *THINKER!*

BUT *NOW*...ACCORDING TO MY COMPUTATIONS...IT IS TIME FOR THE *DOOR* TO OPEN...

...AS THE PSEUDO *RICHARDS* ENTERS!

MY MISSION HAS *SUCCEEDED!*

NATURALLY!! FOR *MINE* WAS THE BRAIN THAT *PLANNED* IT!

AIDED BY MY INFALLIBLE *COMPUTERS*, FAILURE IS NO LONGER *POSSIBLE!*

THE TIME IS 3:49! TOTAL *VICTORY* IS MINE!

NOT QUITE!! YOU MADE *ONE* MISCALCULATION!

THOUGH YOUR PSEUDO-ANDROID COULD *STRETCH* LIKE ME... YOU COULDN'T GIVE HIM MY *SKILL*... MY KNOWLEDGE OF *TACTICS*...

YOU COULDN'T PROGRAM HIM TO *BEAT* ME!

GET HIM! *STOP* HIM!

AND, NOW THAT YOUR *TIMETABLE'S* UPSET... *ANY-THING* CAN HAPPEN!

I'M... FIGHTING MY OWN *TEAM*... EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE *PSEUDOS!*

THE *REAL* BEN MUST BE SOMEWHERE ON THIS FLOOR!

IF ONLY... I CAN *REACH* HIM!

THE *FEMALE* ANDROID... TRYING TO DECOY ME *AWAY* FROM THAT DOOR!

THERE CAN ONLY BE *ONE* REASON...

BEN MUST BE INSIDE!

I WAS *RIGHT!* BUT... HE'S *KNOCKED OUT!*

WHATEVER *CAUSED* IT OUGHT TO BE *WEARING OFF* BY NOW!

BEN! BEN! SNAP *OUT* OF IT, OLD FRIEND!

I... CAN'T HOLD THEM OFF... MUCH *LONGER!*

HUH? WHA... WHAT'S GOIN' *ON* THERE...?

WASSAMATTER WITH YA?? WHY CAN'TCHA... LET A FELLA *SLEEP?*

BEN! IT'S THE *MAD THINKER!* HE'S *ATTACKING*... WITH ANDROIDS THAT ARE FASHIONED AFTER *US!*

THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO *DESTROY* US... THEN TO TAKE OUR *PLACES!*

THE PSEUDO *TORCH*... HE'S BROKEN IN!

IF *PSEUDO* MEANS WHAT I *THINK* IT DOES, PAL...

...THEN IT'S **CLOBBERIN' TIME!**

HOW COME HE *CONKED OUT* SO FAST? THE *TORCH* WOULDA COME UP *SWINGIN'!*

BUT, HE'S JUST AN *ANDROID*, BEN...

ONCE YOU MANGLE HIS *CIRCUITS*...HE'S *FINISHED!*

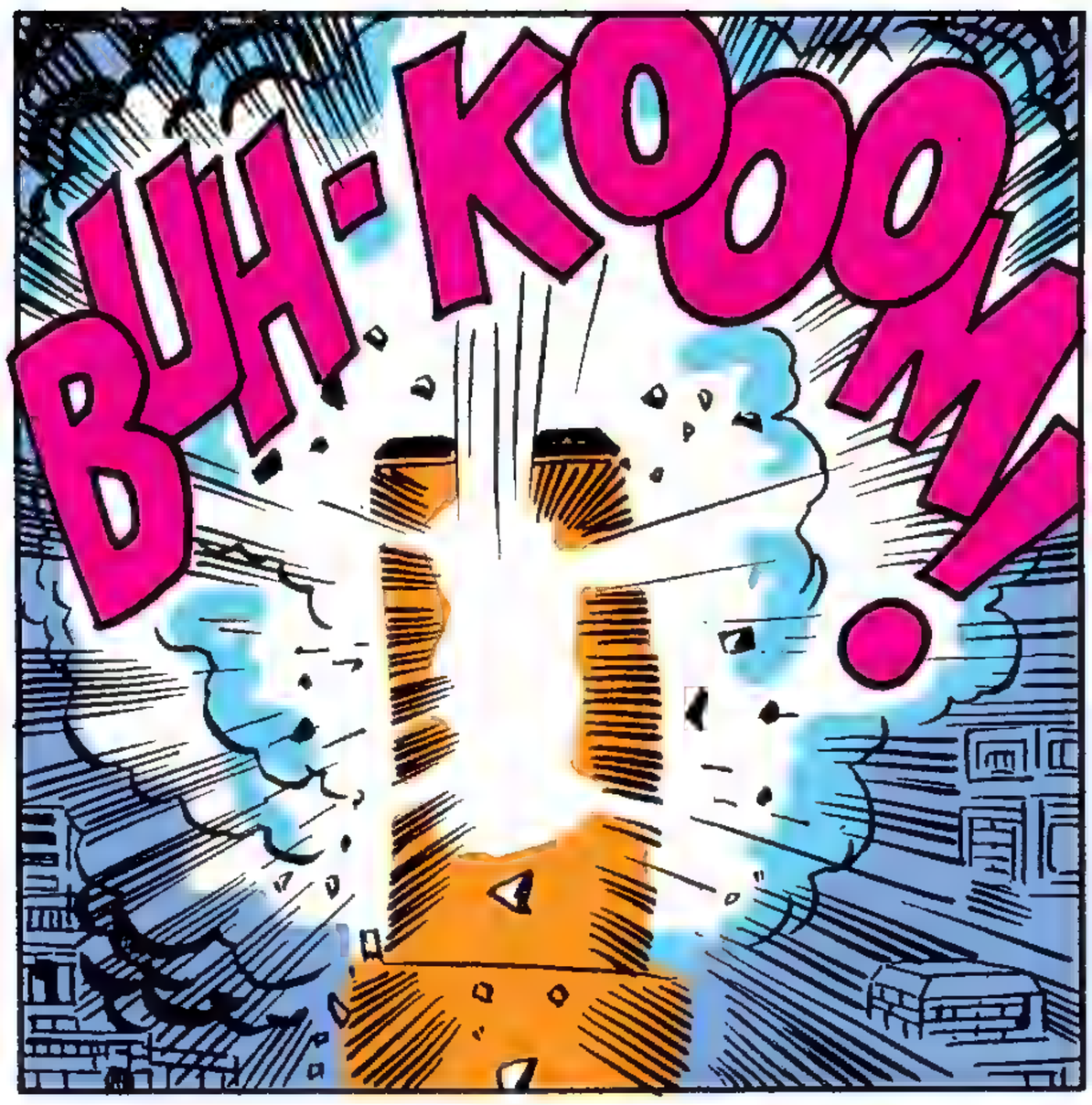
HERE'S *ONE* ANDROID WHOSE CIRCUITS DON'T *MANGLE* THAT EASY!

HEY... HE'S *ME!*

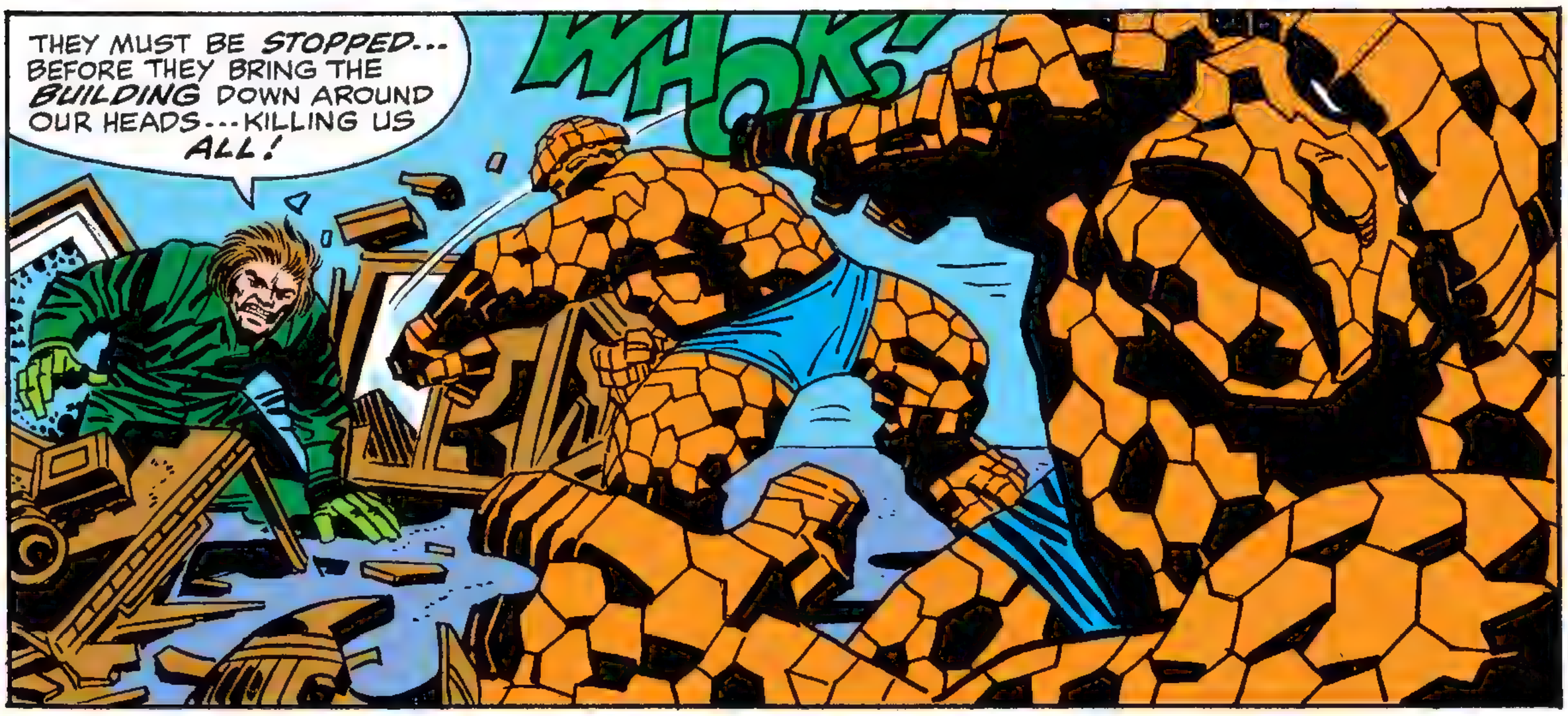
SHEEESH! IF *THAT'S* WHAT I LOOK LIKE--- CHARGIN' *HEAD ON*...

NO *WONDER* THEY HATE ME ON YANCY STREET!

I MUST *CRUSH* YOU--- AS I AM *PROGRAMMED* TO DO!


BUH-KOOM!

BAM
ZOK!
THOP
KRAK!


THEY MUST BE STOPPED... BEFORE THEY BRING THE BUILDING DOWN AROUND OUR HEADS---KILLING US ALL!
WHOK!

THIS PISTOL HAS ENOUGH VELOCITY TO ANNIHILATE THE THING... WITH ONE SINGLE BLAST!

BUT... HOW AM I TO KNOW... WHICH ONE IS MY ANDROID?

I'LL SAVE YOU THE *TROUBLE* OF HAVING TO DECIDE!

ANDROID C!! THE *GUN*... GET THE *GUN*... QUICKLY!

A WELL-PLACED SHOT CAN *STILL* SAVE THE DAY!

TOO LATE TO *STOP* HER! IT'S ALL UP TO *BEN*

CAN'T *DO* IT... CAN'T HIT A *FEMALE*... EVEN IF SHE *IS* A CRUMMY ANDROID!

BUT I GOTTA DO *SOMETHIN'* ...BEFORE SHE *FIRES!*

THE *WALL!* IF I *ZONK* IT HARD ENUFF... IT'LL SHAKE HER UP AND...

THAT'S *IT!* SHE *DROPPED* THE BLASTED POPGUN!

AND *NOW*, BUTTERCUP, WE CAN GIT *BACK* TO WHERE WE LEFT *OFF!*

SOK!

THWUMP!

HE AIN'T GITTIN' *UP* AGAIN!

I MUSTA *KIBOSHED* HIS BUILT-IN NUTS'N BOLTS!

NOW AIN'T *THAT* A CRYIN' SHAME?

TALK, MADMAN!! WHERE ARE *SUE* AND *JOHNNY*? IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO MY *WIFE*, I'LL--

LET ME *GO*! IF YOU *INJURE* ME, I'LL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO TELL YOU!

AND KEEP THE *THING* AWAY FROM ME...IF YOU VALUE THEIR *LIVES!*

SO LONG AS I HOLD *THEM* HOSTAGE...THE VICTORY CAN *STILL* BE MINE!

I'LL *YET* LIVE TO SEE YOU *DESTROYED*... WHILE THE *THINKER* TAKES YOUR PLACE!

I'LL USE MY *COMPUTERS* TO DEVISE A *NEW* METHOD OF EXTERMINATING YOU...

NOT *THIS* TIME YOU WON'T! I JUST *REALIZED* SOMETHING!

YA WANT WE SHOULD *APPLAUD*... OR GIT US A *BRASS BAND?*

HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN HERE FROM THE *OUTSIDE*...OUR *ALARM DEVICES* WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM!

THAT MEANS HE EMPLOYED SOME SORT OF *SECRET ENTRANCE*...FROM *WITHIN* THE BAXTER BUILDING!

KNOW SOMETHIN'? THAT'S *DIRTY POOL!*

YA OUGHTTA BE *ASHAMED!*

I *FOUND* IT! HE BUILT A *SHAFT* WHILE WE WERE IN *EUROPE*, BATTLING *DR. DOOM!**

CLICK!

*JUST A FEW ISSUES BACK, REMEMBER? ...STAN.

IT'S *MY* FAULT! I SHOULD HAVE *DOUBLE-CHECKED*, AS SOON AS WE RETURNED!

HEAR THAT? STRETCHO GITS *TWO DEMERITS* ON ACCOUNTA YOU!

NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT'S *WAITING*...DOWN BELOW!

YER WASTIN' YER TIME IN THE *VILLAIN* BUSINESS, CHUM!

YA'D MAKE A *BUNDLE* DESIGNIN' *ELEVATORS!*

HEY! LOOKA THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE!

IT'S HIS ANDROID GUARD CREW!

LET'S TAKE THEM, BEN!

COOL IT, MISTER! I'LL DO IT BY MY LONESOME... THE EASY WAY!

HERE'S WHERE OL' LONG-HAIR FINALLY COMES IN HANDY...

GO GIT 'EM, BIG BRAIN!

HOW ABOUT THAT?? I GOT ME A STRRRIKE!

SUE AND JOHNNY MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE!

I SEE 'EM, PAL... JUST AHEAD!

REED! ARE THEY... I MEAN...I--I CAN'T SAY IT!

THEY'RE ALL RIGHT, BEN! HE HAS THEM UNDER SEDATION--- BUT THEY'RE ALIVE!

HOW'S ABOUT I LUG THE THINKER TO THE HOOSE-GOW?

I WANNA BE THERE WHEN HE WAKES UP WITH EXCEDRIN HEADACHE NUMBER ONE!

FINE, BEN... YOU DO THAT...

IT'S EXACTLY THREE O'CLOCK! HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THIS HAPPENED IN SO LITTLE TIME!

SUE SHOULD BE AWAKENING SOON!

PERHAPS A KISS... WILL SPEED THE PROCESS..

THE WAY IT HAPPENS... IN A FAIRY TALE---

REED ... MY DARLING...

LET'S FACE IT! EVEN HARD-BOILED STAN AND JACK BOTH LOVE A HAPPY ENDING!

BUT, WHILE WE SHYLY DRY OUR EYES, IT'S ONLY FAIR TO WARN YOU...NEXT ISSUE...

MONSTER FROM THE LOST LAGOON!

FANTASTIC FOUR

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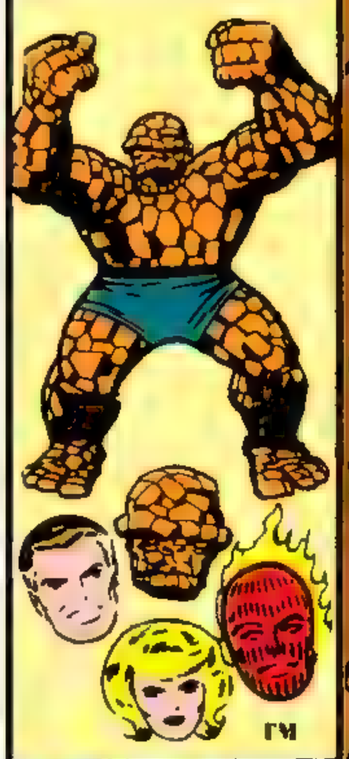

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

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Fantastic Four™

THE MONSTER FROM THE LOST LAGOON!

THE FABULOUS F.F. FIND MADDENING MYSTERY WHEN THEY MEET...

THE MONSTER FROM THE LOST LAGOON!

A STAN/JACK LEE/KIRBY MYSTERY THRILLER!

EMBELLISHED BY FRANK GIACOIA

LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN

YOU GUYS MUST BE **NUTS**, LOOKIN' FOR SOME NUTTY **MONSTER** OUT HERE!

EVEN THE **DOLPHINS** ARE LAUGHIN' AT YA!

LET 'EM **LAUGH**, BLUE-EYES! IF REED SAYS **SEARCH** ...WE **SEARCH!**

TOO MANY *SHIPS* HAVE GONE DOWN HERE IN *LOST LAGOON* FOR IT TO BE ACCIDENTAL!

WHEN THE *NAVY* HEARD WE WERE *VACATIONING* HERE... AND ASKED US TO INVESTIGATE THE *SINKINGS*, I COULDN'T REFUSE!

BIG DEAL! I'M BETTIN' YA JUST WANTED TA GIT YER HANDS ON THIS NEW *AIR-SEA CRUISER* OF THEIRS!

I DIDN'T NOTICE *YOU* TURNING DOWN THE RIDE, BEN!

NATCHURLY! *SOMEONE'S* GOTTA PROTECT THE TWO OF YA!

YOU DON'T *REALLY* EXPECT TO FIND A *MONSTER* IN THESE WATERS, DO YOU, REED?

HIM? HE'LL BE LUCKY TA FIND HIS WAY *HOME* AGAIN!

I'M CERTAIN OF *ONE* THING...

THOSE SINKINGS WERE CAUSED BY SOMETHING IN A *HUMAN FORM*... BUT MORE *POWERFUL* THAN ANY MAN COULD EVER... *WAIT!*

LOOK SHARP! THERE'S A *GIANT FORM* ...LOOMING AHEAD!

THROK!

HANG ON! IT'S *RAMMING* US!

A HUGE *KILLER WHALE!*

BUT... WHAT'S HE *DOING*... IN THESE WATERS?

REED! COULD THE *SUB-MARINER* BE BEHIND THIS?

I DOUBT IT! WITH HIS INCREDIBLE ARROGANCE, HE'D ATTACK US PERSONALLY!

I THOUGHT ... I SAW A FIGURE... CLINGING TO THE WHALE!

BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN...MY IMAGI-NATION!

MAYBE THE WHALE CAUSED ALL THE SINKINGS!

NO! TOO MANY WITNESSES TOLD OF SEEING...A MONSTER ...IN HUMAN FORM!

WELL, HOW'S THE *CRUISER*, REED? IS SHE STILL *SEA-WORTHY?*

MEBBE *SHE* IS... BUT *I* AIN'T!

HOW'S ABOUT TAKIN' HER *UPSTAIRS*, STRETCHO? I'M GITTIN' *SEASICK!*

WILL DO, BEN!

TONY STARK MUST HAVE DESIGNED THIS BABY *PERSONALLY!*

EVEN AFTER THAT *IMPACT* ...SHE HASN'T A *SCRATCH!*

REED! IF IT'S NOT THE *SUB-MARINER*... HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF...*TRITON?*

YES, BUT IT'S *UNLIKELY*, SON!

HE HAS NO *MOTIVE!* HE'S ALWAYS *BEFRIENDED* US!

WELL, I'LL SEE YOU *LATER!* I'M HEADING BACK TO THE *BEACH!*

HEY! WHAT GOT INTA *HIM?*

MENTIONING *TRITON* MADE ME THINK OF THE *INHUMANS* ---AND *CRYSTAL!*

I... DIDN'T WANT THEM TO SEE... HOW THE VERY *THOUGHT* OF HER... SHAKES ME UP!

IF SHE DOESN'T *RETURN* TO ME SOON... I'LL BE A *MENTAL CASE!*

SUE SHOULD BE WAITING HERE SOMEPLACE!

IT'S...THE *HUMAN TORCH!*

WHAT *ELSE* IS NEW?

STAY BACK, FOLKS! IT TAKES A FEW SECONDS FOR MY FLAME TO DIE OUT!

HOW COME YOUR SUIT DOESN'T CATCH FIRE?

IT'S MADE OF UN-STABLE MOLECULES!

HE'S PUTTING US ON!

HEY, CELEBRITY! WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS CALL YOU? HUMAN... OR TORCH?

VERY FUNNY! I'LL BET YOU'RE A SMASH AT FUNERALS!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DATE.. AN INHUMAN??

SORRY, LADY! I.. DON'T DISCUSS... MY PRIVATE LIFE!

WELL, HANDSOME... IF THERE'S ROOM IN THAT PRIVATE LIFE FOR ANOTHER VOLUNTEER..?

IF EVER YOU WANT A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON... WHILE YOU TALK ABOUT ALL THOSE BIG, BAD SUPER-VILLAINS..!

I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND, KIDS!

AFTER CRYS... HOW CAN ANY OTHER GIRL MEAN ANYTHING TO ME?

OH, YOU'RE BACK, JOHNNY!

BUT WHERE ARE REED ...AND BEN?

THEY'LL BE ALONG SOON, SIS! I FLEW ON AHEAD OF THEM!

LIKE HI, LITTLE NEPHEW!

HEY, FRANKIE---YOU'RE LOOKING MORE LIKE YOUR UNCLE JOHNNY EVERY DAY!

BUT WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN TO SAY FLAME ON?

FWAMM OMM!

ATTA BOY! YOU ALREADY SOUND BETTER THAN BEN!

CAVORTING WITH STRANGE MEN WHILE I'M GONE, EH, MRS. RICHARDS?

WELL, WHEN A GIRL'S HUSBAND WOULD RATHER CHASE MONSTERS ON THEIR VACATION--

SOME CHASE! ALL WE FOUND WAS AN OVER-GROWN WHALE AND SOME EMPTY COKE BOTTLES!

I GUESS IT WAS JUST ANOTHER BASELESS RUMOR!

SURE...HOW CORNY CAN YOU BE?

I'LL BET EVEN MONSTERS DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS!

DON'T BE ANGRY ABOUT OUR LITTLE MONSTER HUNT, DARLING!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS FOR YOU AND FRANKLIN TO ENJOY THESE FEW DAYS!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN, DEAR...

BUT, IF YOU WANT TO... I KNOW A BETTER WAY!

AND SO DO I, SUE..!

I...THOUGHT I HEARD... A SPLASH!

BUT, RIGHT NOW... I COULDN'T CARE LESS!

SO! THEY SEARCH FOR ME, AT LAST!

I KNEW THAT IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN!

BUT THEY MUST NOT STOP ME NOW... WHEN MY WORK IS NEARLY DONE!

ALL I NEED IS TIME! A LITTLE MORE TIME!

I HAVE ONLY ONE VIAL LEFT!

THAT MEANS THAT THIS WILL BE MY FINAL CHANCE TO MAKE...THE CHANGE!

NOTHING...NOTHING MUST STOP ME NOW!

IT IS TAKING EFFECT! I'M CHANGING... AS PLANNED!

ONCE AGAIN I AM A BREATHER OF AIR!

ONCE *AGAIN* I CAN MINGLE UNNOTICED AMONG THE *SURFACE MEN!*

THEY DID NOT SUSPECT ME *BEFORE...*

SO THEY WILL NOT SUSPECT ME *NOW!*

AND, WHAT *BETTER* PLACE FOR ME TO HIDE THAN *HERE..?*

...HERE, IN THEIR OWN *OCEANARIUM...*

*...*WHERE THEY THINK OF ME MERELY AS A HANDLER OF *FISH!*

YOU'RE *LATE!* IT'S TIME FOR THE *DOLPHIN ACT!*

THOSE WHO WERE *SEEKING* ME...THEY ARE *HERE!*

CAN IT BE THAT THEY *SUSPECT?*

NO! IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE!* THEY ARE MERELY TOURIST *SPECTATORS!*

C'MON! C'MON! THE *CROWDS'LL* SOON BE HERE! GET *WITH* IT, FELLA! *MOVE!*

I MUST BE *CERTAIN!* IS IT MERELY *CHANCE* THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE?

OR, HAVE I SOMEHOW *BETRAYED* MYSELF?

OCEANARIUM

I CAN TELL *NOTHING* BY THEIR EXPRESSIONS!

I'VE SEEN THESE ACTS *BEFORE*... BUT NEVER PERFORMED AS *MAGNIFICENTLY* AS *HE* IS DOING THEM!

SHEESH! IT SURE DON'T TAKE *MUCH* TO IMPRESS *YOU!*

CAN *YOU* DO THAT, BEN?

CAN *HE* CARRY A *TRUNK*... WITH AN *ELEPHANT* ATTACHED??

HE SEEMS AS MUCH AT *HOME* IN THE WATER AS THE *DOLPHINS* DO! IN FACT, HE COULD...

YOU ALWAYS HAVETA THINK SO *LOUD*, CHARLIE?

NO! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! NO ONE WOULD CALL HIM A *MONSTER!*

REED'S LIKE A *TROLLEY CAR*... HE'S GOT A *ONE-TRACK* MIND!

I ADMIT IT! I CAN'T STOP WONDERING ABOUT THE SO-CALLED MONSTER!

THERE ARE AS MANY STRANGE MYSTERIES BENEATH THE SEA AS THERE ARE IN DEEPEST SPACE!

WE KNOW THOSE SHIPS WERE ATTACKED BY SOMETHING IN LOST LAGOON... AND, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S TOO POWERFUL TO REMAIN THERE, FREE TO STRIKE AGAIN!

THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE... HOPING TO FIND SOME CLUE!

THIS OCEANARIUM BORDERS THE EDGE OF LOST LAGOON!

THERE MIGHT BE SOME ENTRANCES TO THE CAVES BELOW...SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN A LIVING LIMB STRETCH THAT WAY!

HE SUSPECTS! HE PROBES FOR A CAVE BELOW!

I MUST SEIZE THE PILOT WHALE... HURL IT LIKE A TORPEDO!

BLANG!

LOOK OUT!

MY ARM!

IF IT WERE NOT... SO PLIABLE... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED!

MAN! THAT WAS ONE MAD FISH!

YOU WERE IN THE WATER AT THE TIME! WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT SPOOKED THAT WHALE?

A REAL CHATTERBOX, AIN'T HE?

LISTEN... I HAVE A *HUNCH* ABOUT THE *CAVES* IN THIS AREA! I WANT TO *EXPLORE* THEM!

YOU'RE A MARINE EXPERT! WOULD YOU ACT AS OUR *GUIDE?*

HE THINKS TO *TRICK* ME! BUT I WILL GUIDE THEM! THAT WAY *THEY* WILL BE... THE *VICTIMS!*

BLASTED *WHALE!* COME ON UP 'N FIGHT LIKE A *MAN!*

SPLOOSH!

BEN! STOP CLOWNING AROUND!

DON'T TELL *ME,* FER PETE'S SAKE---

TELL THE WHALE!

IS THE AIR-SEA CRUISE CAR *READY* FOR US TO USE?

WELL, I WAS *HOPING* YOU'D VOLUNTEER!

THAT MEANS YA WANT ME TO *GIT* IT, HUH?

OUR SILENT *FRIEND* HERE IS GOING TO SERVE AS *GUIDE!*

IT SHOULD BE AN *INTERESTING* TOUR!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

I WANT TO FIND THE *DEEPEST* CAVES IN THIS AREA!

HOW DOES *HE* KNOW HIS WAY AROUND HERE?

NOBODY CAN SWIM THIS FAR *DOWN!*

RIGHT! I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR *ANSWER* TO JOHNNY'S QUESTION!

BUT, SUDDENLY---

HEY! I'M GITTIN' A CRAZY *READIN'* ON THE SONAR---

HE'S BEEN LEADIN' US DEEPER 'N DEEPER INTA SOME KINDA *BOG!!*

IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYIN' TA GIT US *STUCK* DOWN HERE--- WITH NO WAY TA GIT *OUT!*

BUT HE'LL BE STUCK THE SAME AS *US!*

HEY! NOW WHAT'RE YA DOIN'..??

BLANG!

HE SMASHED HIS WAY *OUT*... WITH *ONE* PUNCH!

THE *BOG*... IT'S PULLING US *DOWN!*

GREAT! THAT GIVES US A *CHOICE*...

IN CASE WE DON'T *DROWN*, WE CAN ALWAYS *SUFFOCATE* TA DEATH!

BEN! JOHNNY! WE'VE GOT TO GET *OUT*... THRU THE *OPENING* HE MADE!

BUT... WE'RE TOO FAR *DOWN!* THE PRESSURE'LL *FINISH* US!

STRETCHO'S *RIGHT!* WE GOT NOTHIN' TA *LOSE!*

MOVE IT! THIS AIR POCKET AIN'T GONNA LAST *FOREVER!*

THE *SPEAR GUN*... WILL HELP US...

IT'LL... FASTEN A *LINE*... TO THE ROCKY REEF *WALL*... THAT WE CAN HOLD *ONTO*..!

WHIST!

QUICK! THE WATER'S RUSHING *IN!!*

IT'S *NO GOOD!* WE'RE DOWN TOO *DEEP!* WE'LL NEVER *MAKE* IT!

I'M THE ONLY ONE... CAN HOLD HIS BREATH LONG ENOUGH--!

REED...'N THE KID... AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!

BUT...I CAN'T LET 'EM DIE! I GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TA THEM...

NO! I AINT GONNA THINK OF IT!

ME, I'M A NOBODY... JUST A CRUMMY PIMPLE IN THE ACNE OF LIFE...

...BUT THEY'RE THE TWO GREATEST GUYS I EVER... HEY!

I MADE IT... I REACHED ONE'A THE CAVES UP ABOVE...! AN' IT'S GOT AIR INSIDE!

THEY'RE STILL BREATHIN'! I JUST GOT 'EM HERE IN TIME!

BUT...I HEAR SOMETHIN'... BEHIND ME... THE SOUND'A PADDED FEET... COMIN' CLOSER...!

IT'S HIM! IT'S GOTTA BE! IT'S THE BLASTED MONSTER REED WUZ LOOKIN' FOR!

HE'S *MUMBLIN'* SOMETHING... BUT I CAN'T *UNDERSTAND* NONE OF IT!

PROBABLY TRYIN' TA TELL ME HOW HE'S GONNA *CLOBBER* THE THREE OF US!

DON'T COME NO *CLOSER*, BALDY... I'M *WARNIN'* YA!

MISSED 'IM! I NEVER FIGGERED HE'D *MOVE* SO FAST!

SPOK!

BKOW!

HE KNOCKED ME OFF'A MY *PINS*... WITH *ONE* CRUMMY PUNCH!

EITHER I'M TURNIN' INTA A *CREAMPUFF*, OR HE'S CLEAN *OUTTA-SITE!*--AND I AIN'T NO *CREAMPUFF!*

OKAY, CHARLIE... NOW IT'S *MY* TURN!

HEY, WHAT GIVES? I CAN'T EVEN BUDGE YA!

BUT AT LEAST YA AIN'T TAKIN' ME BY SURPRISE NO MORE!

SURE WISH I COULD UNDER-STAND YER LINGO!

...SO'S I COULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND'A VITAMINS YA TAKE!

I'M GITTIN' 'IM NOW... HE'S FALLIN' BACK..!

BUT SUDDENLY...

HEY! WHO TURNED THE HEAT ON?

WHO DO YOU THINK, BLUE EYES?

WHOOOSH!

STAY WITH IT, BOY! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! AS AN AMPHIBIAN, HE'S FEARFUL OF FLAME!

BUT WHO IS HE, REED? WHAT IS HE?

WE'RE BOUND TO FIND OUT... IF HE DOESN'T ESCAPE US!

QUICK... AFTER HIM! HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!

CAREFUL... HE MIGHT BE IN LEAGJE WITH OUR GUIDE... IT COULD BE A TRAP!

REED... WHAT IF HE'S FROM SOME STRANGE, UNDERSEA RACE?

YA MEAN THE OLD "THEY'RE GONNA TAKE OVER THE WORLD" TRICK?

HOW CORNY CAN YA BE?

HEY... WE LOST HIM! HE COULD HAVE TAKEN ANY OF A DOZEN DIFFERENT PASSAGES!

KEEP YER DIAPERS ON, KID! OL' BASH-FUL BENJY'LL DIG 'IM OUT!

THOOM!

ONE PUNCH'LL CRACK THESE WALLS LIKE A EGG-SHELL!

IT WORKED, BEN! THE CAVE IS LEVELLING OFF AHEAD OF US!

HOW COME YA ALWAYS GOTTA TELL US WHAT WE CAN SEE FER OURSELVES?

YOU IN LOVE WITH YER VOICE, OR SOME-THIN'?

LOOK! THERE HE IS...!

BUT... I NEVER EXPECTED TA SEE... NOTHIN' LIKE THAT!

REED! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT'S SOME KINDA *SHIP*... LOOKS LIKE IT *CRASHED* IN HERE...FROM UP *ABOVE!*

THAT MEANS HE *AIN'T* FROM EARTH...HE'S FROM... ANOTHER *PLANET!*

BUT...WHAT'S HE DOIN' WITH THEM PLASTIC BAGS OF *WATER?*

HE'S *LOADING* THEM ABOARD HIS SHIP! DON'T YOU *SEE?*...IT'S ALL SO *CLEAR* NOW!

HE MUST HAVE *CRASH-LANDED*--BUT, BEING FROM A *WATER-TYPE WORLD* HE NEEDS THAT FLUID TO *SUSTAIN* HIM ON HIS RETURN VOYAGE!

HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT PASSING SHIPS WERE *HOSTILE*...SO HE *ATTACKED* THEM... ONLY FOR *PROTECTION!*

PROTECTION? BUT *WHY?* TO PROTECT *WHAT?*

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! WITHIN THE SHIP...A *FEMALE* OF HIS SPECIES! IT MUST BE...HIS *MATE!*

BUT...MANKIND WOULD HAVE *HELPED* HIM! HE DIDN'T HAVE TO *FIGHT* US!

THINK *AGAIN*, JOHNNY! THINK HOW *BEN* ATTACKED HIM... WITH NO PROVOCATION!

THINK HOW *EASY* IT IS TO *MISUNDERSTAND* ...WHEN WE CANNOT *COMMUNICATE!*

THEN HE *WUZN'T* TRYIN' TA CONQUER THE *WORLD*, OR NOTHIN'!

HE'S JUST A FRIGHTENED *CASTAWAY*... ON A *SAVAGE* WORLD!

KNOCK IT *OFF*, WILLYA... BEFORE I START *BAWLIN'!!*

HE'S *GESTURING* TO US... TELLING US TO MOVE *BACK!*

HIS REPAIRS MUST BE FINALLY *FINISHED!* HE'S PREPARING TO *BLAST OFF!*

BUT WE DIDN'T LEARN ANYTHING *ABOUT* HIM... WHO HE *IS*... WHERE HE *CAME* FROM!!

AND I FEAR WE NEVER *WILL!*

WHOOSH!

LOOKS LIKE YER *WRONG* THIS TIME, MISTER!

HE AIN'T HEADED FER NO OTHER *PLANET*... HE *ZUSSHED* RIGHT DOWN INTA THE *DEEP* AGAIN!

HE *HAD* TO, FOR MAXIMUM *THRUST!*

LET'S CLIMB *OUT* OF HERE AND I'LL *SHOW* YOU!

REED! WHAT ABOUT OUR MURDEROUS *GUIDE?* WE'VE STILL GOT TO *FIND* THAT RAT!

IT-- WON'T BE *POSSIBLE,* SON!

FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD YA *GIVE UP* SO FAST!

THERE HE *GOES*... STRAIGHT UP FROM THE *SEA!*

AND *WITH* HIM... THE SECRET OF OUR *GUIDE!*

DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY OUR GUIDE NEVER *SPOKE*... HOW HE HAD THE *STRENGTH* TO PUNCH HIS WAY THRU OUR *CRUISER?*

YOU MEAN... IT WAS *HIM*... IN SOME SORT OF *DISGUISE?*

I'M AFRAID IT'S THE ONLY *ANSWER!*

NUTS! I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF WE *WON* OR NOT!

BUT *ONE* THING'S FER SURE... IF THEY EVER MAKE THIS INTA A *MOVIE*... THIS'LL BE THE PERFECT SPOT FER A *FADE-OUT!*

NEXT *MYSTERY ON THE MOON!*

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DOOMSDAY ON THE MOON!

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IT ISN'T *POSSIBLE!* HE *CAN'T* BE HERE! NOT *HERE!*

STAY BACK! YOU KNOW HOW *DANGEROUS* HE IS!

WHY DON'T HE *STOP?* WHY DOES HE KEEP *COMING?*

THRILLS and DRAMA AS ONLY MIGHTY *MARVEL* CAN PRESENT THEM!

FOR THE F.F., IT STARTED SOME MONTHS AGO--BUT IT MAY *NEVER* END!

MYSTERY ON THE MOON!

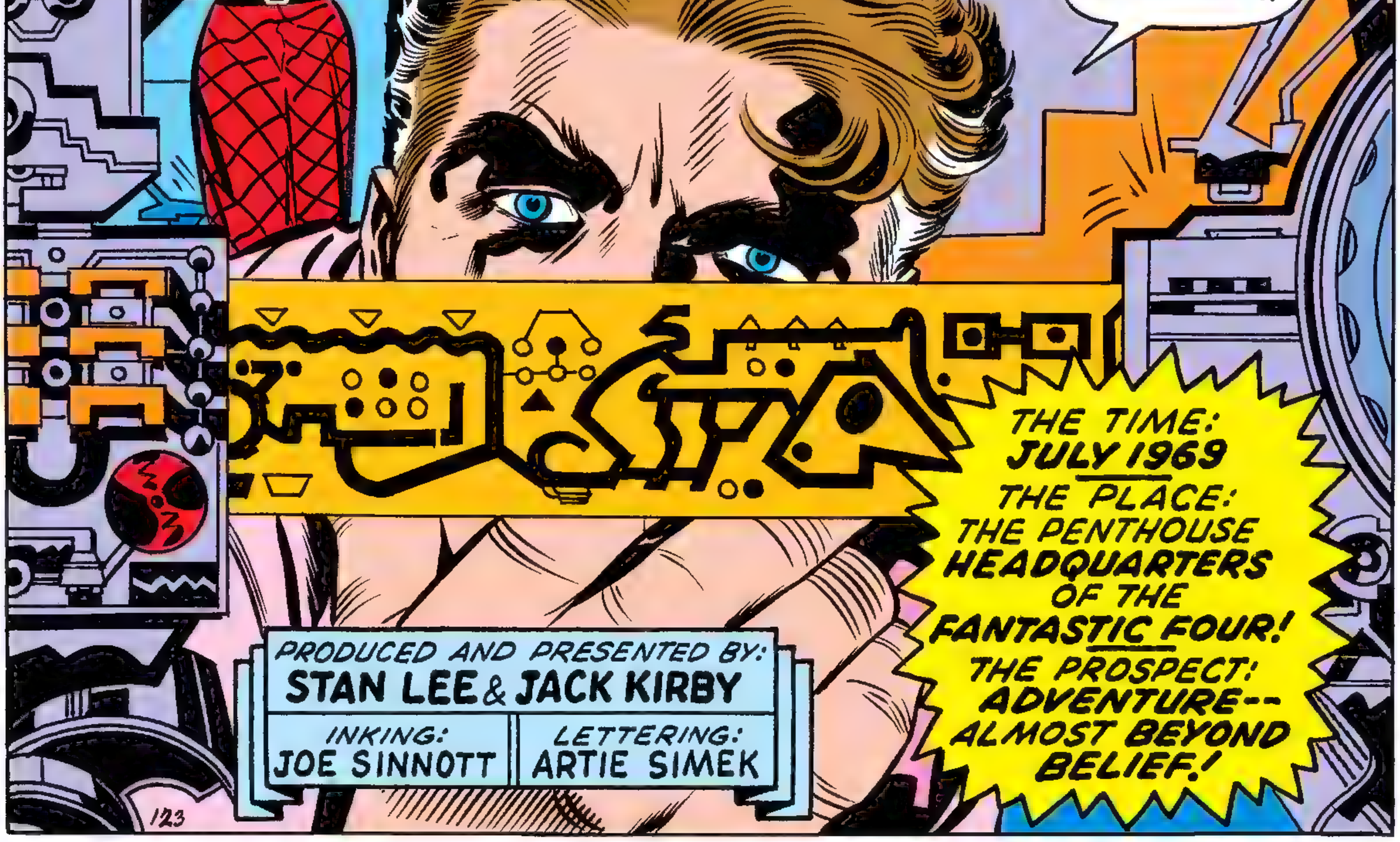
REED, DEAR, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR *DINNER* TONIGHT?

QUIET, HONEY! CAN'T *TALK* TO YOU NOW!

I'VE INTERCEPTED SOME SORT OF STRANGE *ALIEN MESSAGE!*

THE *SYMBOLS* ARE THE SAME AS THOSE I SAW *BEFORE*--THE LAST TIME WE BATTLED--THE *KREE!*

THEY HAD LEFT A *SENTRY* ON EARTH ONCE BEFORE--WHAT IF THEY'VE ALSO LEFT *ANOTHER?!!*



PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

INKING: JOE SINNOTT | LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

THE TIME: JULY 1969
THE PLACE: THE PENTHOUSE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THE PROSPECT: ADVENTURE--ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF!

CAN YOU *TRANS-LATE* IT, REED? CAN YOU TELL WHAT IT *SAYS?*

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR *HOURS!* I THINK I'M GETTING *ONE* KEY WORD--

I'M WAITING FOR THE *COMPUTER* TO ANALYZE THE DATA!

I FEEL A SUDDEN *CHILL*--AS THOUGH SOME SUBTLE *PREMONITION* IS WARN-ING ME--

HOLD IT, SUE! IT'S COMING *THRU* NOW! THE COMPUTER HAS A *TRANSLATION*--!

REED--WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*

TRANQUILITY

I'M NOT *SURE,* DARLING! IT'S JUST THIS *ONE* SINGLE WORD!

PERHAPS I FED THE COMPUTER THE *WRONG DATA!* I'VE GOT TO TRY IT *AGAIN!*

NOT TILL AFTER *DINNER,* DEAR!

DON'T *WORRY,* SUSIE! OL' STRETCHO AINT ABOUT TA *STARVE!*

OKAY, SUE! I'LL PUT IT OFF TILL *LATER!*

ME, I'M GONNA STAY GLUED TA THE *BOOB TUBE* TODAY!

APOLLO GO!

SEA OF TRANQUILITY TARGET FOR MOON WALK!

"TRANQUILITY"! IT SEEMS TO STRIKE A CHORD IN MY MIND-- AND YET, I CAN'T ZERO IN ON IT!

SPEAKING OF ZEROING-IN--HERE COMES JOHNNY, BLAZING TOWARDS US!

HE WAS TRYING TO FORGET CRYSTAL BY HELPING OUT AT TODAY'S AIR SHOW!

HI, SIS! WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

FLAME OFF-- WASH UP-- AND YOU'LL FIND OUT!

YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND LIKE "MISS HOUSEWIFE OF 1969", SIS!

HEY, BLUE EYES! SINCE WHEN DID YOU LEARN HOW TO READ?

MOON WALK

MMMGRUMMFF!

TURN DOWN THEM BURNERS, HOT-SHOT-- OR I'LL SNUFF YA OUT LIKE A CANDLE!

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT--?

IT NOT ONLY READS --IT TALKS!

NUTS! A GUY MIGHT AS WELL LIVE IN A BLASTED KINDERGARDEN!

DON'T GO 'WAY MAD, BIG BUDDY-- JUST GO 'WAY!

BEN! THAT PAPER! LET ME SEE IT!

SEA OF TRANQUILITY

NASA

SHEESH! WHAT GIVES? DIDJA MISS ORPHAN ANNIE AGAIN TODAY?

NO--IT'S THAT HEADLINE, OLD FRIEND--THE ONE ABOUT THE MOON WALK!

MOON LANDING

WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I SHOULD HAVE MADE THE CONNECTION IMMEDIATELY!

SEA OF TRANQUILITY

LM-EAGLE WILL LAND

NASA

SOMEWHERE IN SPACE, THE MURDEROUS KREE HAVE BEEN WATCHING US--MONITORING OUR PROGRESS--

AND THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR PLAN FOR HUMANS TO SET FOOT UPON THE SEA OF TRANQUILITY!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ON A DISTANT PACIFIC ISLE--

I HAVE RECEIVED MY ORDERS FROM THE KREE COUNCIL SUPREME!

KLIK!

AND, AS A PRE-PROGRAMMED SENTRY, I MUST EXECUTE THEM --WITHOUT FAIL!

FIRST, I MUST ACTIVATE THE *BETA-GUN*--

FOR, ONLY *THIS* WEAPON CAN RAISE THE UNDERSEA *ISLAND* WHERE THE FATEFUL *STIMULATOR* LIES HIDDEN!

AND *SO* BEGINS-- MY *MISSION!*

THE MISSION WHOSE TASK IT IS TO PREVENT THE RACE OF *MAN* FROM BRANCHING OUT INTO *SPACE!*

THUS, THEIR *MOON LANDING* MUST END IN-- *DISASTER!*

AND NOW, I HAVE *REACHED* THE ISLAND SITE--

SHOOSH

IT IS DONE! THE ISLE IS RISEN! AND NOW TO FIND--THE STIMULATOR!

FOR, ONLY THE MIGHTY *STIMULATOR* CAN ROUSE THE *NAMELESS MASS* WHICH SLEEPS BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE *MOON*--

PLACED THERE, AGES AGO, BY THE *KREE*-- WHOM I EVER SERVE!

AND, ONCE *AWAKENED*-- IT WILL *DESTROY* ANY LIFE THAT IT MAY FIND!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BAXTER BUILDING--

I'M *SO* GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, ALICIA! JUST LET ME PUT LITTLE *FRANKLIN* IN HIS CRIB!

SUE! WHAT IS THAT *ROAR* I HEAR?

OH, DIDN'T YOU *KNOW*, DEAR--?

THE BOYS ARE *LEAVING* AGAIN--IN A *MISSILE*, LENT TO THEM BY *NASA*!

LEAVING-- IN A *MISSILE*? BUT-- *WHERE*? *WHY*?

THERE! FEEL THE *VIBRATION*? THEY--THEY'VE *BLASTED OFF!*

I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* THEY'RE GOING--BUT REED SAID--THE *STAKES* ARE AS HIGH AS *SPACE* ITSELF!

HEY, MISTER-- YOU AINT TRYIN' TA *BEAT* 'EM TA THE *MOON*, ARE YA?

OF *COURSE* NOT, BEN!

WE'RE JUST OUT TO SEE THAT THEY *MAKE* IT-- WITHOUT *MISHAP!*

BUT *HOW*, REED? WHAT GOOD CAN WE DO *NOW*?

I'M HEADING FOR THE SITE WHERE THE *KREE MESSAGE* CAME FROM, JOHNNY!

LOOK! UP AHEAD-- WHAT ISLAND IS *THAT*?

IT'S NOT ON ANY OF OUR *CHARTS!* IT'S AS THOUGH--IT'S JUST *RISEN!*

THEN *THAT* MUST BE THE SPOT WE'RE *LOOKING* FOR!

BUT--IT'S *SHARP*--AND *CRAGGY*--LIKE THE SURFACE OF THE *MOON!*

THERE'S NO PLACE TO *LAND* DOWN THERE!

THERE *HAS* TO BE! WE'VE ONLY ENOUGH *FUEL* FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES!

YA *REALLY* GOT US INTA THE SOUP *THIS* TIME, BIG BRAIN!

JOHNNY! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--!

DON'T SAY IT! I'M 'WAY AHEAD OF YOU, BOSS MAN!

FLAME ON!

I'LL USE MY OWN FIRE POWER TO MELT US A LANDING STRIP!

HAVE TO GET MY BODY HEAT--TO HIGHEST INTENSITY--

MUSTN'T WASTE-- A SINGLE SPARK!

CAN ONLY BLAZE THIS WAY--FOR ANOTHER FEW SECONDS--

--BEFORE THE STRAIN-- BLACKS ME OUT!

YOU DID IT, LAD! YOU DID IT!

IT WAS A CLOSE ONE-- BUT, AT LEAST WE'RE HERE!

NOW AINT THAT JUST PEACHY-KEEN?

S'POSE YA TELL US WHERE IN BLAZES HERE IS SUPPOSED TA BE--AND WHY I HADDA GIVE UP WALTER CRONKITE FER THIS!!

QUIT GRIPING, BEN! MAYBE REED DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET EYESTRAIN IN FRONT OF THE IDIOT BOX ALL DAY!

CLAM UP, YOU TWO! THIS IS NO TIME FOR HORSE PLAY!

"MR. FANTASTIC" AINT BAD ENUFF! NOW HE'S TRYIN' TA SOUND LIKE JOHN WAYNE!

THIS ISLE IS ALMOST A MINI-REPLICA OF THE MOON!

BUT WHY?

LOOK, STRETCHO--IF YER EXPECTIN' TA FIND SOMEONE HERE, I'LL FLUSH 'IM OUT FOR YA REAL FAST!

KRAK

SINCE THERE AINT ANY DOORBELLS TA RING--

THIS OUGHTTA LET 'EM KNOW WE'RE HERE!

BLOOK

AT THAT SAME SPLIT-SECOND, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, ANOTHER MIGHTY BLAST IS HEARD--AT CAPE KENNEDY--AS APOLLO LIFTS OFF FOR THE MOON--!

THEY'RE AWAY!!!

THRUOUT THE NATION--THRUOUT THE HEMI-SPHERE--THRUOUT THE **WORLD**--THE EYES OF MANKIND ARE RIVETTED UPON--THE SPECTACULAR **MOON SHOT**--

REGARDEZ! C'EST UN MOMENT **MAGNIFIQUE!** VIVE LES ASTRONAUTS!

ZUT ALORS! IF NOT FOR **BRIGITTE BARDOT,** I WOULD WEESH TO BE AN **AMERICAN** TODAY!

YOU **HEARD** ME! PULL THAT HEAP OVER TO THE **CURB,** CHARLIE!

YA CAN'T GIMME A TICKET **NOW!** I'M TUNED IN TA **MISSION CONTROL!**

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A **TICKET?**

I WANNA HEAR WHAT'S **HAPPENING** UP THERE-- AND SINCE YOU GOT YOUR **RADIO** ON--!

IVAN! IT IS NOT **POSSIBLE!** HOW CAN THEY **BEAT** US THERE! WE HAD A **HEAD START!**

DO NOT WORRY, SONIA! WHEN THEY LAND ON THE MOON, **WE** CAN ALWAYS CLAIM WE **INVENTED** IT!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE MYSTERIOUS ISLE--

THE **STIMULATOR** FUNCTIONS PERFECTLY! BUT--WHAT IS THAT **SHOCK BLAST** I FELT??

THERE ARE *OTHERS* UPON THE ISLE!

BUT *NOTHING* MAY INTERFERE WITH MY MISSION-- *NOTHING!*

THEREFORE, *ANY* WHO HAVE THUS APPROACHED--

--MUST BE INSTANTLY *DESTROYED!*

THERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR-- A *KREE SENTRY!*

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

I'LL TACKLE HIM *FIRST!*

RATS! I FORGOT HOW *FAST* THEY CAN MOVE WITH THOSE *JET SHOES!*

YOU *ALSO* FORGOT HOW MY JETS CAN BE *AIMED*-- TRANSFORMING THEM INTO MIGHTY *WEAPONS!*

HE'S--BLOWING ME *BACK*--LIKE --A *FEATHER* --IN--A *WIND TUNNEL!*

BUT, ONCE OUT OF *RANGE*, I CAN *INCREASE* MY FLAME AGAIN!

NO MATTER! YOU WILL TROUBLE ME *NO MORE!*

REED! LOOK OUT!

MY *FIRST* TASK SHALL BE TO SEIZE YOUR *LEADER*--

--AND USE HIS MORTAL *BODY* AS A *SHIELD* AGAINST YOUR FLAME!

IT'S *OKAY*, JOHNNY! STAY *BACK*! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

I *KNEW* YOU WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE *ANOTHER!*

REACHING BEHIND MY *BACK* WILL AVAIL YOU *NOTHING!*

YOU HAVE NOT THE *STRENGTH* TO HURT ME!

MEBBE *HE* DON'T-- BUT HOW'S ABOUT *ME?!!*

ZOK!

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

OR MEBBE YA ALREADY *GUESSED!*

WHEN OL' BENJY *WHUMPS* 'EM, THEY *STAY* WHUMPED! HE'S OUT *COLD!*

OKAY, LET'S GIT BACK *HOME* 'N SEE WHAT WE MISSED ON TV!

NOT SO *FAST*, BEN! OUR JOB ISN'T *FINISHED* YET! HE WAS JUST THE KREE'S *WATCHDOG*--

NOW WE HAVE TO LEARN WHAT HE WAS *GUARDING!*

HEY, MISTER--YOU GOT A **GRUDGE** AGAINST THEM ASTRONAUTS, OR SOMETHIN'?

HOW COME YA WON'T LET A GUY WATCH 'EM LAND ON THE **MOON?**

YOU'VE GOT IT **WRONG**, OLD FRIEND! I'M TRYING TO MAKE SURE THEY **DO** LAND--**SAFELY!**

--AND OUR **TIME** IS RUNNING **OUT!**

A **FIREBALL FLARE!** JOHNNY'S **FOUND** SOMETHING!

YOU STAY **HERE**, BEN! YOU'VE GOT TO GUARD THE **SENTRY!**

IF I'DA **KNOWED**, I'DA BRUNG MY LITTLE JIM-DANDY **PORTABLE TV!**

WHAT **IS** IT, JOHNNY?

I'VE UNCOVERED AN **ENTRANCE** OF SOME SORT --LEADING STRAIGHT **DOWN!**

KEEP **GOING!** I'LL **STRETCH** AFTER YOU-- AS FAR AS I CAN!

IT'S NOT TOO **DEEP!** THERE'S THE **BOTTOM**-- JUST BELOW!

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER! THAT MACHINE!

IT'S TRACING APOLLO'S EXACT PATH TO THE MOON!

AND IT'S ZEROED-IN ON THE LANDING SPOT--RIGHT ON THE SEA OF TRANQUILITY!

WE CAN BE CERTAIN OF ONE THING--ITS PURPOSE IS A HOSTILE ONE!

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DEACTIVATE IT--SOMEHOW!

MY FLAME OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!

JOHNNY! WHAT'S WRONG?

I DON'T KNOW! THE CLOSER I GET TO IT--THE WEAKER --I FEEL!

IT'S-- AFFECTING ME--THE SAME WAY!

CAN'T STAND UP! MY FLAME--GETTING WEAKER--EVERYTHING GETTING--HAZY--!

THE MACHINE-- SENDING OUT RAYS--TO DEFEND ITSELF!

THE UNSEEN RAYS-- EVEN WEAKENED-- THE SENTRY!--THAT'S WHY--BEN'S FIRST BLOW--STOPPED HIM COLD!

BUT--THEY MUSTN'T-- STOP US! THEY MUSTN'T--!!

EVEN AS REED RICHARDS CRIES OUT-- ABOVE THE CRATORS OF THE **MOON** APOLLO'S **LUNAR MODULE** PREPARES FOR LANDING--

BUT, **BENEATH** THE BARREN, CRAGGY SURFACE, A DEADLY **NAMELESS MASS** STIRS ITSELF AT LAST--

SILENTLY, EFFORTLESSLY, IT SLITHERS BELOW THE **MODULE**--WAITING FOR THE FATEFUL MOMENT WHEN ITS VICTIM LANDS ABOVE--!

LANDING PROBE DOWN! 200 FEET! 100 FEET--!

WHILE, BACK AT THE SITE OF THE DEADLY STIMULATOR--THE MACHINE WHICH HAS BROUGHT THE NAMELESS MASS TO LIFE--

ONLY SECONDS LEFT! I'VE GOT TO REACH--THE MACHINE! I'VE GOT TO--!!

BUT-- DESTRUCT LEVER IS-- ON OTHER SIDE! CAN'T-- GRASP IT-- IN TIME!!

WAIT!! THERE'S STILL--ONE CHANCE!

BEN!! HE'S WAITING --ON THE SURFACE! IF ONLY--HE'LL HEAR ME!

BEN! BEN!

BEN

KRUNCH!

I HEAR YA TALKIN', PAL!

IT SURE FEELS GOOD TA BE WANTED!

YA DIDN'T **HAVETA** YELL THAT LOUD! I GOT **BORED** PLAYIN' NURSEMAID TA THAT CREEP, SO I **FOLLOWED** YA DOWN!

HEY! PAY **ATTENTION** WHEN A FELLA **TALKS** AT YA, HUH?

BETTER GIT **OUTTA** HERE BEFORE THE **WHOLE JOINT** GOES **KERPLOOIE!**

UH OH! THERE AINT NO **ELEVATOR** LEADIN' TA THE **TOP!**

WELL, I JUMPED **DOWN** HERE EASY ENUFF--SO I'LL HAVETA GIT **UP** THE SAME WAY!

MEBBE I **AINT** NO BLASTED **HULK**-- BUT--

ANYTHIN' **HE** CAN DO--

YEESH! I COULDA SAVED MYSELF THE **TROUBLE--!**

THE FORCE OF THE **BLAST** TOSSED US UP HERE LIKE A BUNCH'A **PING PONG BALLS!**

GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE **MISSILE** 'N GIT **OUTTA** THIS DUMP--

--WHILE THERE'S STILL A DUMP **LEFT** TO GIT OUTTA!

SECONDS LATER--

HOW COME YOU GOLDBRICKS DIDN'T WAKE UP SOONER 'N SAVE ME ALL THAT CARRYIN'!?

WE WERE--TOO CLOSE--TO THE MACHINE'S RAYS--BEN!

REED! ARE YOU-- STRONG ENOUGH TO-- HANDLE THE SHIP?

IF HE AINT-- THIS IS A HECKUVA TIME TA FIND OUT!

THERE'S THE SENTRY! HEY-- HE'S IGNORIN' US!

YES! HIS MISSION IS OVER--THE SAME AS OURS! THERE'S NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR US TO BATTLE!

BUT--I STILL DON'T GIT IT! WHAT GOOD DID WE DO? WHAT WUZ IT ALL ABOUT?

WE MAY NEVER REALLY KNOW!

BUT THE KREE KNOW! THEY KNOW THAT THEIR NAMELESS MASS IS DIS-SOLVING INTO NOTHINGNESS BEFORE THE MODULE LANDS--

--SO MAN CAN WALK THE MOON IN SAFETY!

--AND SPACE NO LONGER IS BEYOND OUR MORTAL REACH!!

THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MAN--

ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND!

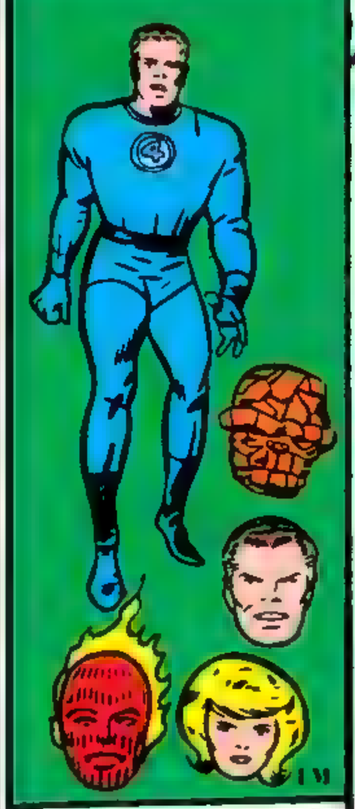
THE BEGINNING...

NEXT: THE TORCH GOES WILD!

FEATURING: THE UNCANNY INHUMANS!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ CC | 99 JUNE



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

IN BATTLE AGAINST THE UNCANNY INHUMANS!

IN THIS EPIC ISSUE...

THE TORCH GOES WILD!

THE FABULOUS F.F. MUST SWING INTO *ACTION* ONCE AGAIN, WHEN--

THE TORCH GOES WILD!

FEATURING: THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

FORGIVE US FOR *BREAKING IN* THIS WAY, BUT--

BEN! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

WHAT DOES IT *LOOK* LIKE, BIG BRAIN?

I'M FIXIN' TO TAKE ALICIA *SKIING* TOMORRA!

A REGULAR BLUE-EYED *BOOMSHUSHER*, THAT'S *ME!*

PRODUCED BY:
STAN LEE *and* JACK KIRBY
JOE SINNOTT, *EMBELLISHMENT*
ARTIE SIMEK, *LETTERER*

1662

BEN, I--HAVE TO ASK YOU--TO *POSTPONE* YOUR SKI TRIP!

MISTER, THERE AINT *NOTHIN'* GONNA MAKE ME DISAPPOINT ALICIA.!

NOT *NOTHIN'*!!

BUT-- WHAT IF *JOHNNY* NEEDS HELP?

YOU MEAN--THE *TORCH* IS IN SOME KINDA *JAM*?

I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE *SIZE* OF IT, BEN.!

HE'S GONE TO ATTACK THE *INHUMANS*-- TO BRING *CRYSTAL* BACK AGAIN.!

HEY--THAT'S *NUTTY*! HE CAN'T TACKLE *THEM*-- ALL BY HIS *LONESOME*!

HE WON'T STAND A *CHANCE*! THEY'LL MAKE *MINCEMEAT* OUTTA THE KID! YA GOTTA *STOP* IM!

IT'S *TOO LATE*! HE SLIPPED AWAY LAST NIGHT-- LEAVING A *NOTE* BEHIND.!

HE'S HALF-WAY *THERE* BY NOW.!

BLAM

NUTS! I'LL *CLOBBER* THE BRAT FER FOULIN' UP MY *LOVE LIFE*!

WE HAD PLANNED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH THE *BABY*--

BUT NOW-- THERE'S NO TELLING *WHEN* WE'LL RETURN TO LITTLE FRANKLIN.!

YA WANT I SHOULD LEND YA A *CRYIN' TOWEL*.?

NO, OLD FRIEND-- ONLY YOUR *SUPPORT*!

MEANWHILE...

PARIS AT LAST! I'VE REACHED THE HALF-WAY MARK!

I COULD HAVE SHORTENED THE TRIP BY ZOOMING ABOVE THE STRATOSPHERE--BUT MY FLAME WOULD HAVE BURNED TOO FAST IN FRIGID SPACE!

GOOD THING I RESTED UP AFTER PASSING FRANCE--

I NEED ALL MY SPEED TO OUT-FLY THOSE NATO JETS!

AND THE SAME GOES FOR DODGING THESE COMMIE HUNTER MISSILES!

SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT I DON'T LIKE THIS STORM COMING UP!

BETTER FIND SHELTER IN THE HIMALAYAS DOWN BELOW!

THIS *CAVE OPENING* IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS *ANY!*

I'LL HAVE TO *STAY* HERE AND WAIT OUT THE STORM!

I'LL WAIT--IF IT TAKES *FOREVER!* NOTHING'LL KEEP ME FROM *CRYSTAL*-- EVER AGAIN!

LOOKS LIKE IT'LL LAST ALL NIGHT!

MIGHT AS WELL MAKE A *FIRE*-- AND GET SOME SHUT-EYE!

I DIDN'T WANNA RUN OUT-- ON THE OTHERS--

--BUT CRYS IS *MY* GIRL--

SO, IT'S GOTTA BE-- *MY* FIGHT--

AND I'LL *WIN* IT! I'LL BRING HER *BACK*--NO MATTER *WHAT* THE ODDS!

AN OUTSIDER!

HUH.??!

WHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE--

WE'RE AWAY!

RRRRRRRRRD

WHAT IF WE DON'T REACH THE KID IN TIME!

DON'T SAY THAT, BEN! DON'T EVEN THINK IT!

PREPARE FOR ORBITAL INSERTION!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A LEAD JOHNNY HAD--

THIS IS WHERE WE START TO WHITTLE IT DOWN!

REED! UP AHEAD-- LOOK!

A SUDDEN METEOR SHOWER!

WE'VE GOT TO FLY THRU IT!

WE AINT GOT A CHANCE! THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!

REED! WHAT CAN WE DO?

NOTHING, SUE --THE SHIP CAN WEATHER IT!

IT MAY HURL US OFF-COURSE, BUT--

LOOK OUT!

HOO BOY! THAT ONE'S GOT OUR NUMBER ON IT!

BUT, THOUGH REED, SUE, AND BENJAMIN MAY HAVE TEMPORARILY FORGOTTEN JOHNNY--WE'LL PROVE THAT WE HAVEN'T--

STAY BACK, BIG MAN!

I DIDN'T GET THIS FAR TO BE STOPPED NOW!

YOUR HAND-- IT IS ON FIRE!

AND YOU'RE A TALKING ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN! SO WHAT?

YOU'VE MELTED THE BOULDER I SEIZED!

THEN-- YOU ARE NOT AN OUTSIDER!

YOU ARE ONE OF US!

ARE YOU *MAD??* WHY DO YOU SO SAVAGELY *ATTACK* YOUR FELLOW *INHUMANS!*

INHUMANS??!

THEN--I'VE *ALREADY* REACHED MY GOAL!

YOU ARE A *DANGER* TO US! I MUST WARN THE *OTHERS!*

THE CAVE *WALL*--IT'S OPENING LIKE A *DOOR!*

HE'S CHARGING *THRU* IT!

I'VE GOT TO *FOLLOW*-- MAKE HIM LEAD ME TO THE *HIDDEN CITY* WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING *CRYSTAL!*

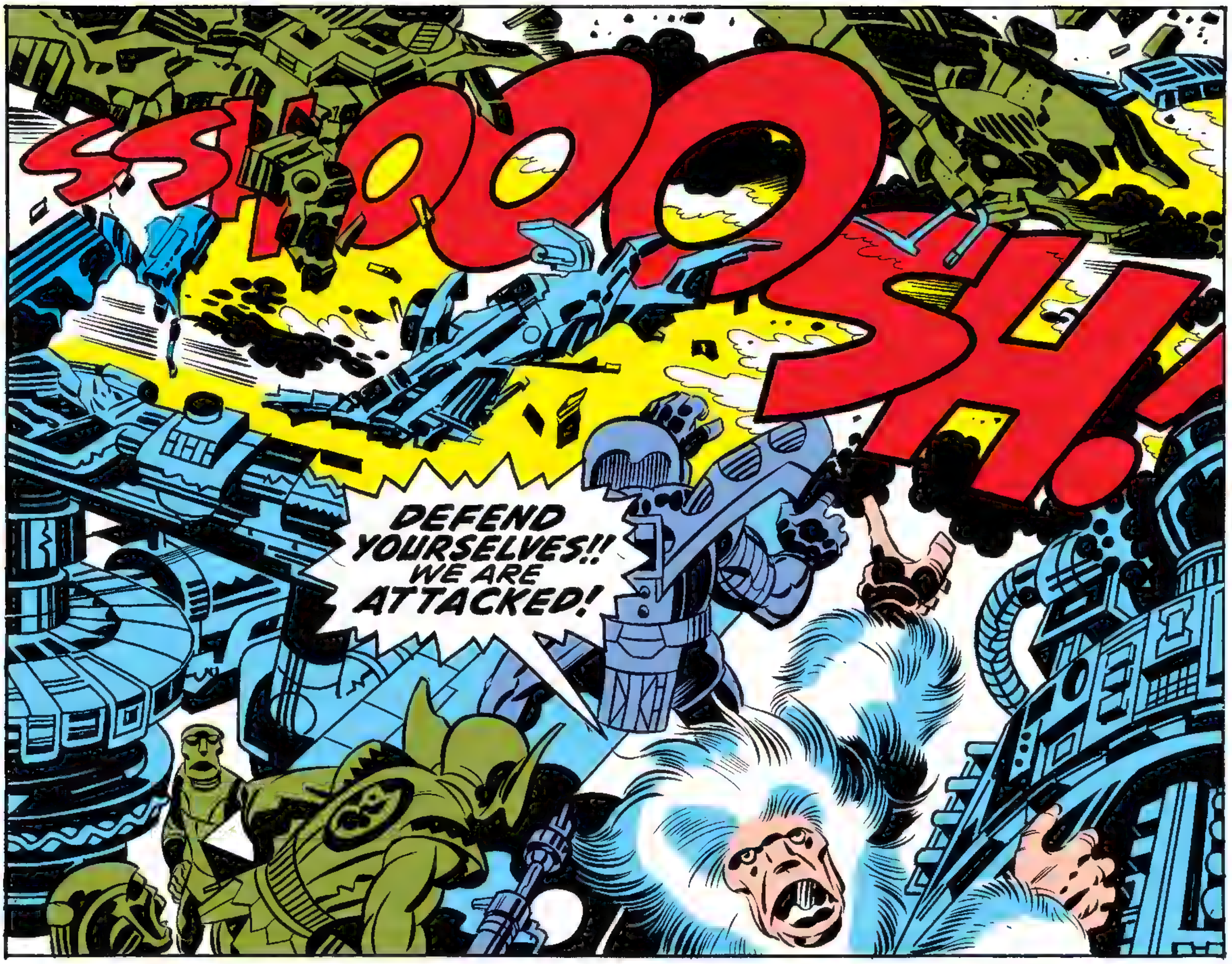
DO THEY THINK THAT *THIS* CAN STOP ME??

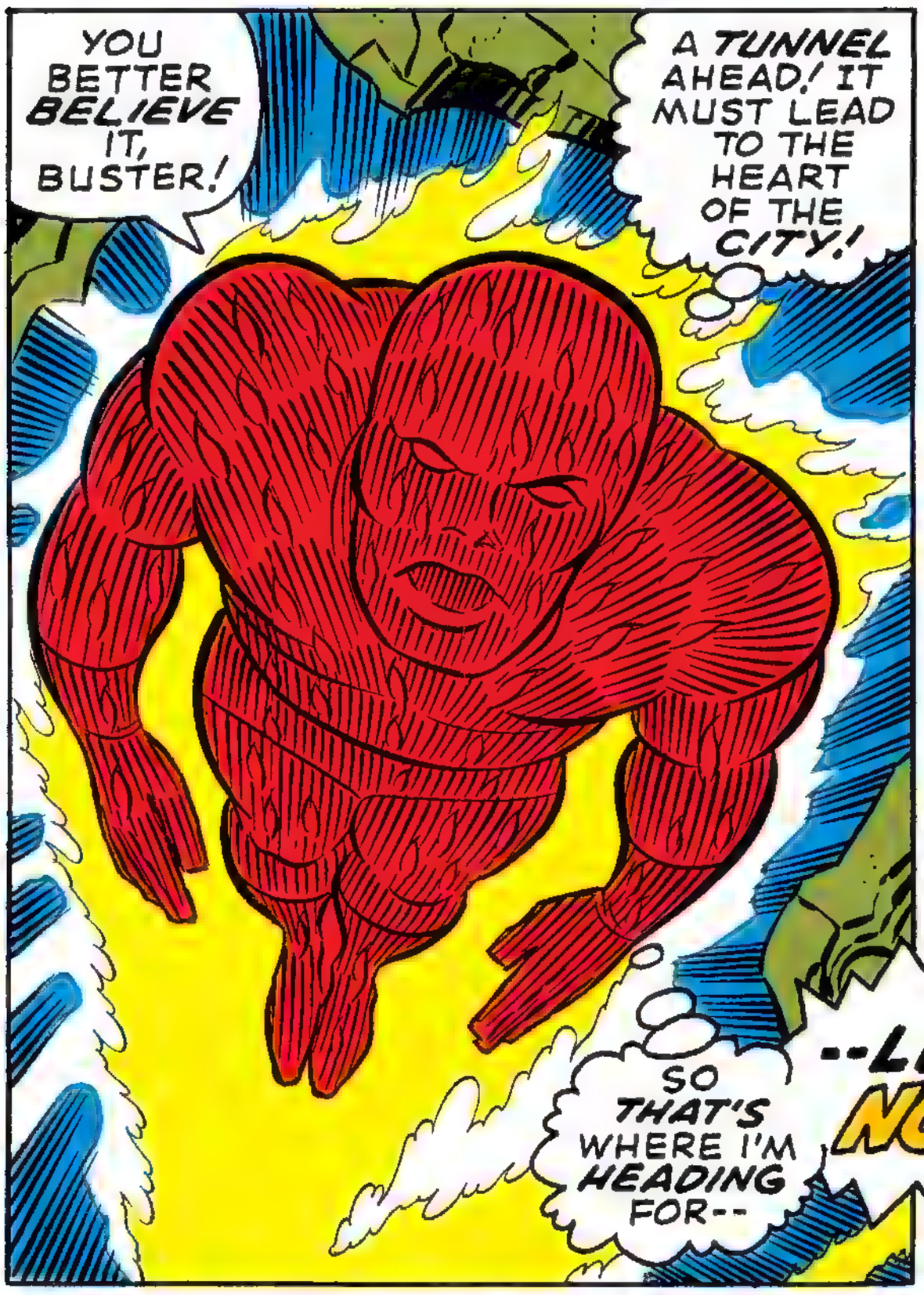
I *KNOW* THAT CRYSTAL IS IN THERE *SOMEWHERE*--AND I'LL *FIND* HER-- *HEAR??*

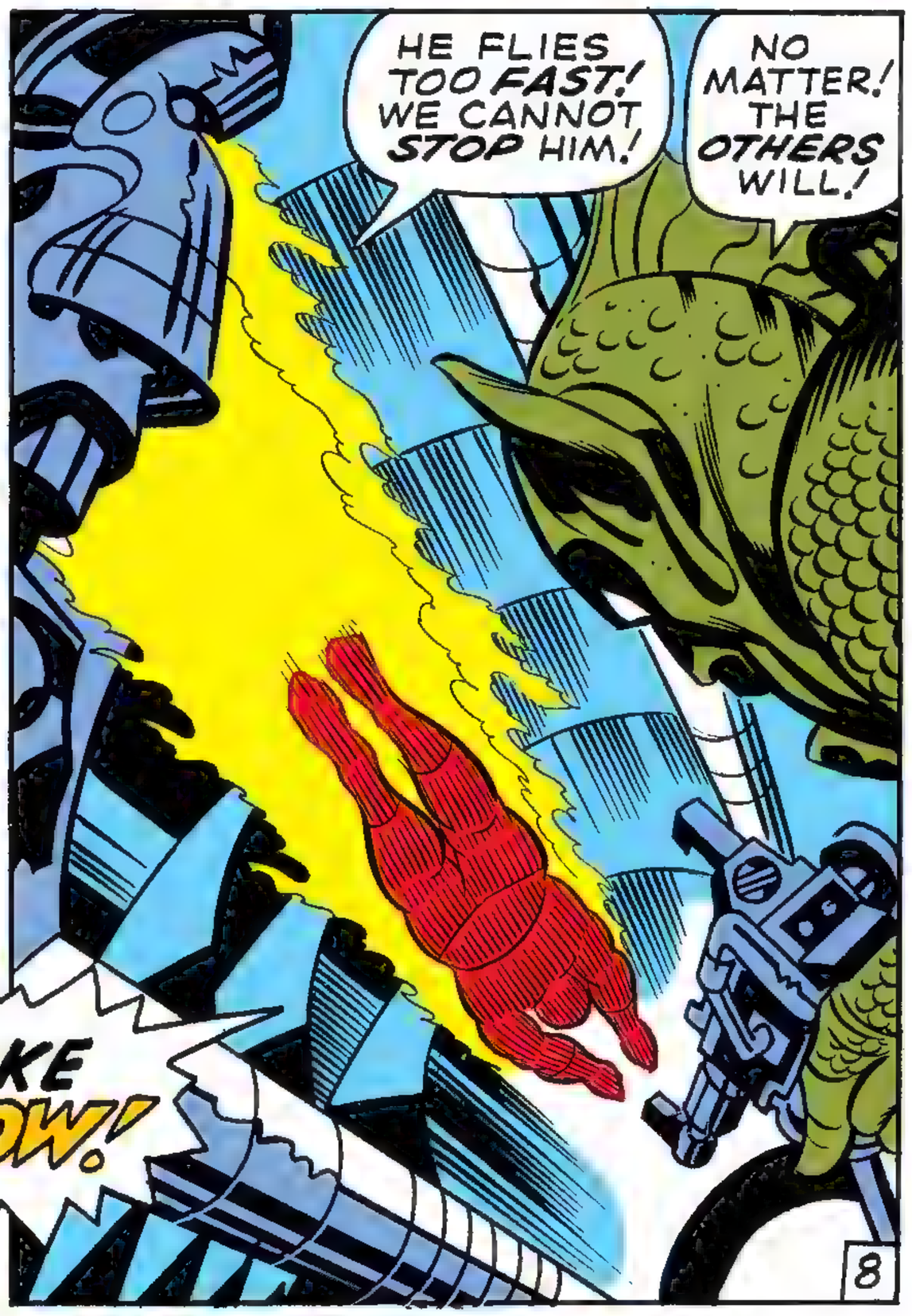
EVEN THOUGH SHE WENT OF HER OWN *FREE WILL*--TO REJOIN HER INHUMAN *FAMILY*--

WE *BELONG* TO EACH OTHER--AND *NO ONE* WILL KEEP US APART! *NO ONE!!*

FLAME ON!


SLOOOSH!
DEFEND YOURSELVES!! WE ARE ATTACKED!


YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, BUSTER!
A TUNNEL AHEAD! IT MUST LEAD TO THE HEART OF THE CITY!
SO THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADING FOR--
--LIKE NOW!


HE FLIES TOO FAST! WE CANNOT STOP HIM!
NO MATTER! THE OTHERS WILL!

EEEE

HAVE TO KEEP THEM ON THE *RUN!*

MY ONLY HOPE IS *SPEED*-- AND THE *UNEX-PECTED!*

--AND, SPEAKING OF THE *UNEXPECTED*--

HOLD YOUR FIRE! I DEMAND AN AUDIENCE-- IN THE PALACE OF *BLACK BOLT!*

IT MUST BE *GRANTED!* SUCH IS OUR *LAW!*

AND SO--

BLACK BOLT-- AND HIS *FAMILY ROYAL*--ARE THE MOST *POWERFUL* INHUMANS OF ALL!

BUT, IF *CRYSTAL'S* INSIDE-- NOT EVEN *THEY* CAN KEEP HER *FROM* ME!

THUS, ALONE AND UNAIDED IN AN ALIEN LAND, JOHNNY STORM UNHESI-TATINGLY THRUSTS OPEN THE GIANT PORTALS--AND FINDS--

ALL OF THEM-- TOGETHER!

--WAITING TO TAKE ME *ON!*

JOHNNY STORM! YOU DARE INVADE OUR ROYAL SANCTUARY?!!

JOHNNY--MY DARLING! YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

I CANNOT EXPLAIN--BUT YOU MUST TRUST ME--AND, YOU MUST LEAVE ME!

NO! THEY'VE BRAINWASHED YOU! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

STAND ASIDE! DON'T FORCE ME TO FLAME ON!

HALT! NONE MAY THREATEN THE THRONE OF BLACK BOLT!

TO BLAZES WITH BLACK BOLT--AND HIS THRONE! IT'S CRYSTAL I WANT!!

NO, JOHNNY--NO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, KARNAK!

I'VE BEEN TAUGHT BY EXPERTS!

ZEEEE!

YOU YOUNG FOOL! HE MERELY POSITIONED YOU FOR MY OWN ATTACK!

MEDUSA'S HAIR! I BLUNDERED RIGHT INTO IT!

BUT, IN THE CASE OF TRITON--IT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER!

HAD KARNAK TRIED TO STRIKE YOU--YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SEEN THE BLOW!

OH NO YOU DON'T!

TRAPPING ME IS ONE THING-- BUT HOLDING ME--

FLAME ON!

THAT SUDDEN FLASH-- IT--IT IS TOO BLIND-ING!

OKAY, MEDUSA-- CRYS IS YOUR SISTER!

DO YOU TELL HER TO RETURN WITH ME--OR--?

--DO I TURN THIS WHOLE CRUMMY PALACE INTO A PILE OF ASHES??

WE HAVE BEEN LENIENT WITH YOU TILL NOW-- BECAUSE OF CRYSTAL--

BUT YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!!

SHE'S SWINGING HERSELF AROUND--OUT OF HARM'S WAY-- BY HER HAIR!

AND NOW-- LET THE FINAL ACT BEGIN!

BUT, BEFORE THE FINAL CURTAIN GOES UP, LET'S REJOIN THE FF AT INTER-MISSION--

I'M ALMOST GLAD THAT METEOR FORCED US DOWN HERE FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS--

I'VE ENJOYED OUR VISIT WITH YOU IMMENSELY!

YOU GUYS EVER BEEN TA YANCY STREET?

EVEN IN THIS REMOTE AND LONELY LAND--

WE HAVE HEARD OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR--

--AND MARVELLED AT YOUR FEATS!

SUE--BEN! WE'RE READY TO ROLL!

I KNEW YOU'D FIX IT, DARLING!

MOVE IT, BIG FELLA! JOHNNY MAY BE FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!

WITHOUT A PROPER LAUNCH PAD, WE'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH TO GIVE THE SHIP MOMENTUM AS IT BEGINS THE LIFT-OFF, BEN!

IF THERE'S A SLIP-UP-- WE'LL GET NO SECOND CHANCE!

OKAY! OKAY! I GIT THE MESSAGE!

GOOD OLD BEN! FOR ALL HIS GRUMBLING, HE'S NEVER *FAILED* US!

BUT WILL HE BE ABLE TO DO WHAT'S NEEDED *NOW?*

JUST YOU *WATCH* HIM, HONEY!

OKAY, BEN-- THIS IS *IT!*

HEY! I JUST THOUGHT--

WHAT ABOUT *ME??*

WE WOULDN'T *FORGET* YOU, OLD FRIEND!

NO *WONDER* THE FAME OF SUCH AS *THEY* HAS SPREAD TO THE FURTHEST VILLAGE AND HAMLET!

BUT IS THERE NOT A *FOURTH* ONE--HIM WHO IS CALLED THE *HUMAN TORCH?*

DID YOU NOT *OVERHEAR* THEIR SPEECH? IT IS *HIM* THEY *SEEK!*

AND, SINCE WE SEEK JOHNNY, TOO--LET'S GO--

JOHNNY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!

DON'T BET ON IT, CRYS!

I DON'T KNOW HOW BLACK BOLT TRICKED YOU INTO SIDING WITH THEM, BUT--

BLACK BOLT-- TRICKED ME?? OH, YOU POOR, BLIND FOOL!

THEN--I WAS WRONG! YOU--YOU WANTED TO COME! YOU WANTED TO LEAVE ME!

I DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU-- I NEVER DID!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SISTER-- I AM A FOOL!

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! YOU THINK I'D DECEIVE YOU-- LIE TO YOU, DO YOU??

WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LOSE HIS TEMPER--

NOW SEE WHAT IT MEANS-- TO ANGER AN ELEMENTAL!!

CRYS--!!

OH, JOHNNY-- DID--DID I I *HURT* YOU?

I--DIDN'T MEAN-- TO UNLEASH SO MUCH *POWER!*

YOU *DIDN'T,* HUH?

YOU FIGURED YOU COULD MAKE A *CHUMP* OUT OF ME LOTS EASIER THAN *THAT!*

WAIT! YOU *STILL* HAVE NOT LET HER *EXPLAIN!*

EXPLAIN *WHAT?* THAT I'VE BEEN *TWO-TIMED* BY AN *EXPERT?*

KARNAK! HE IS ABOUT TO *FLAME ON!*

NOT IF I CAN *STRIKE* HIM IN TIME!

FORGET IT!

I'M *THRU* BEIN' A *FALL GUY* FOR A BUNCH OF *FREAKS!*

NO, JOHNNY-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *SAYING!*

MAYBE I *DO,* LADY-- FOR THE *FIRST TIME!*

I THOUGHT WE *LOVED* EACH OTHER! I THOUGHT IT WAS *CRYS* AND *ME*-- NO MATTER *WHAT!*

I TRAVELLED HALF-WAY 'ROUND THE *WORLD* JUST TO *FIND* HER AGAIN!

WELL, I *FOUND* HER, ALL RIGHT!

BUT THE LAST LAUGH'S GONNA BE ON *ME!*

I'LL MAKE 'EM WISH THEY'D NEVER *HEARD* OF THE *HUMAN TORCH!*

I'LL CREATE A *FIRE-BALL*-- SO *BIG*--

--THEY'LL NEVER SET *FOOT* OUT OF THIS PLACE AGAIN! I'LL SHOW 'EM WHAT--

HEY!!

WHAT'S *THAT?* WHERE'D IT *COME* FROM??

ONE SINGLE METAL *BAR*--SHOOTING THRU MY FLAMES-- ABSORBING THE *HEAT* AND BREAKING UP THE *FIRE BALL!*

BUT-- BUT *WHO??* *HOW??*

LOOKS LIKE WE *GOT* HERE JUST IN *TIME!*

NO TELLING *WHAT* WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF NOT FOR THE *HEAT-ABSORPTION ROD* I FIRED!

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH JOHNNY HAS GONE *MAD!*

NOT *MAD,* HONEY-- JUST *SICK AT HEART*-- WITHOUT THE GIRL HE LOVES!

KEEP BACK-- I DIDN'T *SEND* FOR YOU-- DON'T *WANT* YOU!

TOO *LATE* FOR THAT! WE'RE *HERE* NOW!

I SAID *STAY BACK*-- AND I *MEANT* IT!

I'M *THRU* BEING EVERYBODY'S *PIGEON!* I'M *THRU* BEING SHOVED AROUND!

JOHNNY!! IF NOT FOR MY *FORCE FIELD*-- YOU MIGHT HAVE *HURT* YOUR OWN *PARTNERS!*

NO, HE *WOULDN'T,* SUE! THAT WAS ONLY MEANT TO *SCARE* US!

WHAT'S *HAPPENED* TO YOU? HOW CAN YOU LOVE CRYSTAL--HOW CAN YOU BE HER *MAN*--WHEN YOU ACT LIKE A SPOILED *CHILD*--WILLING TO HARM *ANYONE* WHO GETS IN YOUR WAY?!!

OKAY, SIS-- YOU--*MADE* YOUR POINT!

HE THOUGHT CRYSTAL HAD *FORSAKEN* HIM--

BUT SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO SAVE HER *BROTHER'S LIFE!*

FOR, THE SPEECHLESS *BLACK BOLT* HAD BEEN *STRICKEN*--DURING A RADIATION EXPERIMENT!

CRYSTAL WAS NEEDED TO TRANSMIT *MICRO-SHOCK WAVES*--TO KEEP HIS *HEART* BEATING--UNTIL *I* COULD RETURN!

GORGON!

BUT NOW I HAVE GIVEN OUR RULER THIS *VIAL*--AND HIS *STRENGTH* WILL BE RESTORED!

I DIDN'T EVEN--GIVE ANYONE--A CHANCE TO *EXPLAIN!*

YOU SAY YOU *LOVE* ME, JOHNNY! BUT LOVE MUST HAVE *COMPASSION* --AND *UNDER-STANDING!*

IT'S *HARD* TO BE UNDERSTANDING --WHEN YOUR GIRL IS--A MILLION MILES *AWAY!*

AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT! SHE AINT A MILLION MILES AWAY *NOW,* IS SHE?

WHAT'S *WITH* YA, JUNIOR? IS BLUE-EYED *BENJAMIN* THE ONLY GREAT LOVER IN THE WHOLE DANGED PLACE?

WILL YOU--*FORGIVE* ME, CRYS?

I'LL HAVE TO *REMAIN* HERE A WHILE *LONGER,* JOHNNY--TILL BLACK BOLT IS FULLY *RECOVERED!* CAN YOU-- *ACCEPT* THAT NOW?

Y'KNOW SOMETHIN'? MEBBE I'LL MAKE THAT SKI TRIP *YET!*

20

NEXT OUR LONG-AWAITED **100TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!** DON'T MISS IT!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ | 100 | JULY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THIS IS IT!
THE SPECTACULAR LONG-AWAITED
100TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
FEATURING:
VILLAINS! VILLAINS! VILLAINS!

JACK & JOE

THE FABULOUS F.F. MUST FACE A HUNDRED DEATHS DURING...

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME!

IN A FLYING CRAFT BORROWED FROM BLACK BOLT, THE FF ARE RETURNING FROM THE LAND OF THE INHUMANS WHERE WE LEFT THEM LAST ISH, WHEN SUDDENLY...

SOMETHIN' SHOT OUR SAUCER RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER US!

BUT INSTEAD OF FALLING... WE'RE FLOATING TO THE GROUND!

DO NOT DESPAIR! WE SHALL ALL LAND SAFELY!

1982

PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR TALENTS!
JOE SINNOTT • INKER
SAM ROSEN • LETTERER

IT WAS YOU CRYS! YOU SAVED THEM!

YES, IT IS I WHO HAVE DONE IT!

TAKE MY HAND SUE...LEST YOU DRIFT AWAY!

I DON'T GIT IT, KID! YOU SOME KINDA WITCH OR SOMETHIN'?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN CRYSTAL'S ELEMENTAL POWER, BEN?

SHE MERELY MADE THE AIR CURRENTS HEAVY ENOUGH..TO SUPPORT US!

AND, IN SO DOING... HELPED SAVE OUR LIVES!

BEN! WHERE'S THE TORCH? DO YOU SEE HIM?

NOT YET, STRETCH! HE WENT FLYIN' OFF TA FIND WHAT IT WUZ THAT SHOT US DOWN!

HEY! THERE'S THE SIGNAL! HE MUSTA FOUND WHAT HE WUZ LOOKIN' FOR!

IT'S COMING FROM JUST OVER THAT RISE!

SO LET'S MOVE!

THERE HE IS! HE'S FOUND THE SAUCER'S WRECKAGE!

THIS BABY'S NEVER GONNA FLY AGAIN!

BUT WHO DID IT? ..AND HOW?

WHATEVER *HIT* US-- IT WAS AN UNBELIEVABLY POTENT AND *SOPHISTICATED* WEAPON!

HOW CAN YOU *TELL*, REED?

LOOK AT THE REMAINS OF THE *METAL!* SOMETHING MADE IT SUDDENLY *FALL APART*... NOISE-LESSLY, WITHOUT ANY *WARNING!*

NUTS! EVERY TIME YA TURN AROUND, ANOTHER *MAD SCIENTIST* POPS UP OUTTA THE WOODWORK!

BUT *THIS* TIME, OUR HAPLESS HEROES ARE DESTINED TO FACE FAR *MORE* THAN ONE LONE HOSTILE FOE---

THE *FIRST* BLOW SHALL BE--- *MINE!*

CLIK!

TO *KANG THE CONQUEROR* HAS BEEN GIVEN THE HONOR OF *LAUNCHING* THE ATTACK AGAINST THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

SHOOSH!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' *ON* HERE?

THE WHOLE BLAMED *FOREST* IS COMIN' *APART!*

ALL THE *WOOD*... 'N THE *ROCKS* ARE FLYIN' AT US LIKE *TORPEDOS!*

GET *BEHIND* ME! I'LL *INCINERATE* THE STUFF BEFORE IT CAN *HIT* US!

JOHNNY... COMING *TOWARDS* US ...A *MAN*... DRESSED IN *ARMOR!*

I SEE HIM TOO! IT... IT'S KANG ... THE CONQUEROR!

I CAN DROP MY FORCE FIELD NOW, DARLING! THE FOREST IS STILL AGAIN!

BUT HOW WILL WE STRIKE BACK AT KANG?

LEAVE 'IM TA ME, SUSIE!

I'VE WAITED FER YEARS TA LEAN ON THE BUM!

BEN! LOOK OUT!

HEY! HOW DID HE DO THAT?

I DIDN'T TAKE MY PEEPERS OFFA HIM FER A MINNIT!

THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE, THING! YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING... ME!

DOC DOOM!

I DESPISE INFORMALITY!

MY FULL TITLE IS DOCTOR!

NOW, WHILE YOU PONDER THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER KANG AND MYSELF ARE TWO SEPARATE BEINGS...

... MY SELF-CONTAINED MISSILE SHALL CONCLUDE THIS CHARADE... FOREVER!

QUICK THINKING, MRS. RICHARDS!

BUT YOUR FORCE FIELD WILL BE BROKEN BY MY NEXT ATTACK!

HE'S FOUGHT US *BEFORE*... HE *KNOWS* OUR POWERS!

IF HE SAYS HE CAN *BEAT* US--

BUT HE IS A STRANGER TO *MY* POWERS! *WATCH*..!

THE GIRL UPROOTED A *REDWOOD*...WITH ONE SINGLE *GESTURE!*

IT'S *FALLING*... ABOUT TO *CRUSH* US!

HAS THE *END* COME AT LAST?

NO! THE F.F. HAVE *SURVIVED* OUR FIRST TWO *ATTACKS!*

WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* WE HAVE PLANNED TOO LONG--TOO *WELL!* *NOTHING* CAN SAVE THEM FROM US!

FOR *YEARS*, THE POWERS OF THE *PUPPET MASTER* WERE NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO *DES-TROY* THEM... BUT *NOW*...

NOW YOU ARE ALLIED WITH THE *THINKER!* AND AFTER TODAY, NEVER *AGAIN* WILL MEN CALL ME *MAD!*

COME! I MUST RETURN TO THE *RADIATION CHAMBER!*

FOR, IF ALL *ELSE* FAILS--THE FIGURE IN THAT *BLOCK* WILL STILL INSURE OUR *VICTORY!*

NOT EVEN THE SUPREMELY MASTERFUL *FANTASTIC FOUR* CAN SURVIVE...WHEN *ALL THE CARDS* ARE STACKED *AGAINST* THEM!

AND *HERE*... WITHIN THIS CHAMBER... IS THE MOST *POWER-FUL* CARD OF ALL!

THIK!

ALL IT WILL TAKE IS A COMMAND FROM *ME*...

...TO *WAKEN* HIM... AND THEN TO BRING HIM...

...TO *LIFE!*

*M*EANWHILE, HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD...

THEY *AREN'T* DEAD! YOU CANNOT KILL... WHAT HAS NEVER *LIVED!*

REED! WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?*

THEY'RE *ANDROIDS*, SUE... POSSESSING THE *POWERS* AND *MEMORIES* OF THEIR HUMAN COUNTERPARTS!

ONLY *ONE MAN* CAN CREATE SUCH DEADLY *MONSTROSITIES*..!

YES! THIS HAS TO BE THE WORK OF... THE PUPPET MASTER!

BUT, HOW MANY MORE SUCH CREATURES HAS HE CREATED!

FAR MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER DEFEAT!

THE SENTRY!

TAKE COVER... I'LL HANDLE HIM!

EVEN THOUGH THE ANDROIDS ARE PERFECT REPLICAS...

THEY'RE STILL NO MATCH FOR A HUMAN BRAIN!

WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE! WE HAVE POWER! POWER! POWER!

QUICKLY, BEN! THAT'S YOUR CUE!

YEAH, MAN! WHEN YA TALK ABOUT POWER...

...YER PLAYIN' MY SONG!

LOOK OUT! HE'S CHARGING FORWARD... TO ATTACK YOU!

DON'T KNOCK YERSELF OUT, FLATHEAD! I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!

BUT YOU SURE ARE!

NOW I CALL THAT JUST PLAIN UN-FRIENDLY!

BUT, IF YA WANNA PLAY ROUGH...

YA SURE CAME TA THE RIGHT GUY, CHARLIE, 'CAUSE...

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

WELL, WADDAYA KNOW?

I BUSTED ALL YER LITTLE COGS 'N PINWHEELS!

OKAY, LET'S GIT US A ROAD MAP 'N HEAD FER HOME!

I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE THAT SIMPLE, OLD FRIEND...

I SUSPECT WE'VE ONLY FACED THE FIRST FEW OF THE ENEMIES THAT AWAIT US!

LOOK! HERE COMES JOHNNY!

HI, GANG! WHILE YOU WERE *RESTING*, I DUG US UP SOME *TRANSPORTATION!*

C'MON, CRYS... GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

MINUTES LATER, AFTER BRIEFING THE *TORCH*, THE LITTLE CARAVAN BEGINS ITS TREK...

SCOUT UP *AHEAD*, JOHNNY! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR *TROUBLE!*

WHY *BOTHER?* WE'LL FIND IT *ANYHOW!*

IF THE *PUPPET MASTER* IS TOSSING REPLICAS OF ALL OUR OLD *ENEMIES* AT US...

...THIS IS GONNA BE *SOME* TRIP HOME!

UH OH! WHAT'S UP *ABOVE*... IN THE GLARE OF THE *SUN?*

HIS *SIZE*... HIS *SPEED*... THERE'S NO MISTAKING HIM...

IT'S *DRAGON MAN!*

...AND HE'S DIVING RIGHT *AT* ME--!!

BI-KOOM!

FALL, TORCH--- INTO THE SNOW... JUST AS I PLANNED!

IT WILL WEAKEN YOU! IT WILL DIM YOUR FLAME!

THUS MAKING YOU A PERFECT TARGET...

---FOR MY MOST LETHAL ATTACK!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, BIG SHOT!

---NOT WHILE I'VE ENOUGH HEAT LEFT TO FIRE ONE LAST BURST THRU THE MOUNTAIN...

---WHERE IT'LL BUILD UP ENOUGH PRESSURE... TO TRAP YOU---WHEN IT ERUPTS!

MADE IT! THE EXPLOSION CAUGHT HIM FLAT-FOOTED!

BUT I'VE GOT TO REACH THE OTHERS NOW!

WON'T BE MUCH GOOD FOR ANY-THING---TILL I CAN RECHARGE MY FLAME!

THERE THEY ARE NOW!

THEY'RE TRYING TO FORD THAT RIVER---IN A NATIVE FIBER BOAT!

UH OH! THEY'RE CAUGHT IN A WHIRLPOOL...

AND MY FLAME'S TOO WEAK TO HELP!

IT ISN'T *NATURAL* TO HAVE A WHIRLPOOL HERE! IT--- *BEN!*

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

IF IT AIN'T *NATCHRAL,* THEN SOMETHIN'S *CAUSIN'* IT, RIGHT?

SO HERE'S WHERE MY *AUN'T PETUNIA'S* FAVORITE NEPHEW FINDS OUT WHAT THAT SOMETHIN' *IS!*

OL' STRETCHO WUZ *RIGHT,* AS USUAL!

THERE'S SOME KINDA NUTTY *GADGET* DOWN HERE, SPINNIN' THE *WATER* AROUND!

BUT IT AIN'T GONNA DO NO MORE SPINNIN' AFTER *THIS!*

BTAM!

NOW, ALL I GOTTA DO IS *CORK* THINGS UP... 'N GIT BACK UPSTAIRS!

YOU *DID* IT, BEN! THE WHIRLPOOL'S *GONE!*

TOSS ME A HUNK'A *SOAP,* WILLYA?

...SO'S IT WON'T BE A *WASTE!*

FOOL! YOU NEVER SUSPECTED *WHO PLACED* THAT VORTEX MACHINE BELOW!

HUH--??!

IT'S OL' *FISH-FACE...* THE *SUB-MARINER!*

HE'S--- DRAGGIN' ME *DOWN*--- BUT I GOTTA KICK *REED* 'N THE OTHERS--- OUTTA DANGER!

THOK!

WE--- WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE *THING* BEHIND!

WE HAVEN'T ANY *CHOICE* ...TILL WE COME TO A *STOP!*

WE *MADE* IT! THE FORCE OF HIS *SHOVE* PROPELLED US RIGHT ONTO THE *SHORE!*

IN THE NAME OF *ALLAH*... A LIVING *MIRAGE!*

WATCH FOR A SIGN FROM THE *TORCH*--- HE MAY HAVE SPOTTED *BEN* SOMEWHERE!

WAIT! HERE HE COMES *NOW!*

WHAT'S THE *STORY*, JOHNNY?

I'M *WORRIED*, REED! THEY HAVEN'T *SURFACED* YET!

PERHAPS I CAN *STRETCH* DOWN TO THE BOTTOM!

12

BEFORE YOU TRY--- *LOOK!* SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING*--THERE-- IN THE *WATER!*

SOME SORT OF *UPHEAVAL*--- CAUSING A GIANT *WAVE!*

LOOK ALIVE! GET READY FOR *ANYTHING*--!

THERE'S SOMETHING ---COMING *OUT* OF THERE!

YER COFFEE BREAK'S *OVER*, STRETCHO!

SUBBY'S GOT HIS WHOLE BLASTED *ARMY* BEHIND 'IM!

NOT EVEN *YOU* CAN DEFEAT THE HORDES OF *ATLANTIS!*

13

IT'S NOT *POSSIBLE!* HOW COULD THE *PUPPET MASTER* BUILD SO MANY *ANDROIDS?*

HE MUST HAVE FOUND A *NEW* SOURCE OF *RADIOACTIVE CLAY!*

BUT--- HOW DID HE *INSTILL* THEM WITH SUCH BESTIAL *HATRED!*

THE *HATE-MONGER!* THAT'S THE ANSWER!

IF ONLY I TURNED *INVISIBLE* IN TIME!

KA-ZAP!

BEHIND HIM ---*DIABLO!*

I DON'T DARE TO *STOP!*

THE *SUPER-SKRULL*--- ARMED WITH A *VACUUM GUN!*

IT--- SUCKED UP MY *FLAME!*

CAN'T--- STAY *ALOFT*... ANY LONGER--!

JOHNNY--- JOHNNY!

THANK HEAVEN YOU WEREN'T FAR ABOVE THE SOFT DESERT *SAND!*

REED RICHARDS WAS *RIGHT!* HE *WARNED* THERE'D BE MANY *MORE* ENEMIES FOR US TO BATTLE!

BUT... THE ODDS ARE MUCH TOO *GREAT!*

...UNLESS I CAN *EVEN* THEM... WITH A TOTAL BLAST OF *ELEMENTAL POWER!*

WHAT *IS* IT, CRYS?? WHAT... ARE YOU *DOING?*

TRYING TO *HELP*, JOHNNY ... IN THE ONLY WAY I *KNOW!*

HEY, TORCHY! YA GOT A LOTTA *GUTS* FALLIN' FER A CHICK LIKE *HER*...

IF EVER SHE GITS *MAD* ATCHA... IT'LL BE *BYE-BYE MATCHHEAD!*

I DO NOT USE MY POWERS *LIGHTLY*, MR. GRIMM!

HE'S ONLY *KIDDING*, CRYS!

SUE! WHERE *ARE* YOU?

RIGHT *HERE*, DARLING! I WAS SEARCHING FOR ANY *OTHER* ANDROIDS!

IT SEEMS... THERE'S NO *END* TO THEM!

DON'T *WORRY*, HONEY! NO MATTER *HOW* MANY DANGERS ARE STILL AHEAD...WE'LL SEE IT THRU... *SOMEHOW!*

NOT JUST FOR *US*... BUT FOR THAT LITTLE *BABY*... WHO'S WAITING BACK HOME!

YOU SEEK TO REACH THE *COAST?* I HAVE A *VEHICLE!*

A *GIFT* FROM OUR VILLAGE.. TO THE VALIANT *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

YOUR KINDNESS IS *LARGE*, AS THE DESERT IS *VAST!*

YECHH! WOTTA *CORNBALL!*

HEAD DUE *NORTH*, BEN! THERE'S A *NATO AIRFIELD* NOT FAR FROM HERE!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FINALLY IN THE *CLEAR!*

... EXCEPT FER THAT CREEP *AHEAD* OF US!

THE *RED GHOST!* DON'T *STOP!*

HE CAN MAKE HIS BODY *UNSOLID!*

BUT HE JUST *SHOVED* SOMETHIN'... RIGHT INTA THE *ENGINE!*

IT'S A *SMOKE GAS* BOMB... WITH THICK, DEADLY *FUMES!*

BUT WE'LL TURN IT *AGAINST* HIM!

HAH! I HAVE DONE WHAT NONE OF THE *OTHERS* COULD DO!

I HAVE *SLAIN* THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

THUS, I CAN NOW *SOLIDIFY* MYSELF!

THANKS, PAL! WE WUZ *HOPIN'* YA'D DO THAT!

... NOW, ALL I GOTTA DO IS GIVE THE GROUND A KING-SIZED *WHUMP...*

NO! NOOOO!

THANKS TO YOUR *FORCE FIELD*, SUE, THE GAS DIDN'T *AFFECT* US!

AND WE WERE HIDDEN BY THE *SMOKE* AS WE LEAPED FROM THE *CAR!*

WE *KNOW*... WE *KNOW*! WE WUZ *THERE!*

HEADS UP! MORE *TROUBLE* COMING!

THE *PUPPET MASTER* EVEN MADE ANDROIDS OF THE GHOST'S *SUPER APES!*

WELL WADDAYA *KNOW*?!!

WATCH IT, BEN! THE *GORILLA'S* AS STRONG AS *YOU!*

SUE... TAKE *COVER!*

EVERY *ONE* OF THEM HAS SOME *SUPER ABILITY!*

THE *BABOON*... SPINNING ME IN THE *AIR*...

...MANAGING TO.. *WEAKEN* MY FLAME!

WE HAVE TO *HELP* THEM! BUT... THEY'RE ALL TOO *CLOSE* TOGETHER!

SUE... LOOK! OVER *THERE!*

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THE *WINGLESS WIZARD* AND HIS FRIENDS, *DID* YOU?

NO! NO MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED TO BE MET BY AN ELEMENTAL TORNADO!

NOW... IF I CAN GET TO HIS ANTI-GRAV DISCS IN TIME...!

PERFECT! AN EASY TARGET FOR THE TRAPSTER...AND HIS SUPER-CEMENT!

NO ELEMENTAL POWER CAN SAVE YOU NOW!

BUT AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD CAN!

MY CEMENT... SPLATTERING BACK AT ME..!

YOU CLUMSY FOOL!

LET THE SAND-MAN SHOW YOU HOW!

HER FORCE FIELD CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE... WHILE CRYSTAL'S HERE!

THAK!

THE WIZARD'S FLYING DISC! YOU... STUCK IT TO ME!

IT WON'T COME OFF! IT WON'T COME OFF!

THAT'S THE IDEA!

AND NOW FOR THE WIZARD HIMSELF...

BY REVERSING THE DISC'S POLARITY, I SENT HIM... OH NO!

I FORGOT ABOUT... THE APES!

THERE ARE ONLY *THREE* ANTI-GRAV DISCS *LEFT!*

SO EVERY *ONE* MUST FIND ITS *MARK!*

AND, IF THEY *DO*...

THOSE THREE BESTIAL *ANDROIDS* WILL THREATEN US *NO MORE!*

HEY.. ANYONE BEEN KEEPIN' *SCORE?* WE MUSTA TACKLED EVERY BADDIE WE EVER *KNOWED!*

ANOTHER ONE? I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT! THERE CAN'T BE ANY *LEFT!*

KEEP YOUR *COOL*, BLUE EYES!

IT'S JUST A *NATO* JET!

IMPOSSIBLE! AND YET... THEY *DID* IT! THEY *DEFEATED* EVERY ANDROID I SENT *AGAINST* THEM!

THUS, WE PREPARE TO USE OUR *FINAL* WEAPON...

MY MOST *POWERFUL* ANDROID OF ALL...

GO, HULK! DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

SOMETHING IS *WRONG!* HIS *EYES*... LOOK AT HIS *EYES!*

HULK OBEYS NO MAN!

YOU ARE HULK'S ENEMY! YOU MUST BE CRUSHED!

STOP HIM! STOP HIM!

I MIS-CALCULATED THE AMOUNT OF CONTROL CLAY!

HE'S RUNNING AMOK!

HE'S TOO DANGEROUS! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

THEN... WE'VE FAILED!

FAILED! NO! I'LL BUILD ANOTHER... GREATER ANDROID! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...

WAIT! HOLD YOUR FIRE! THERE ARE EXPLOSIVES BEHIND HIM!

STOP RANTING, YOU MADMAN! LISTEN TO ME! STOP!!

BUT, IN HIS BLIND, UNTHINKING RAGE, THE PUPPET MASTER HEARS NOTHING... AND THEN...

MEANWHILE, A SPECIALLY-REQUISITIONED NATO PLANE THUNDERS TOWARDS THE STATES...

WOW! WAIT'LL THE GUYS AT THE BASE LEARN WHO OUR PASSENGERS ARE!

KEEP TALKING MAJOR!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO LISTEN TO SOMEONE WHO ISN'T A PRE-PROGRAMMED ANDROID!

MAN! YOU ALL SURE LEAD THE LIFE!

HOW'S ABOUT GITTIN' SOME SHUT-EYE NOW?

GO AHEAD, OLD FRIEND! YOU'VE EARNED IT!-- I GUESS WE ALL HAVE!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... ALL OUR ADVENTURES... WE'RE STILL TOGETHER... WE'RE STILL A TEAM! THE GREATEST TEAM EVER!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

YEAH.. 'N I'M BETTIN' HE WILL!

NEXT BEDLAM AT THE BAXTER BUILDING!

FANTASTIC FOUR
15¢ 101 AUG

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

SHOCK FOLLOWS SHOCK, AS **DEATH** STRIKES AT NIGHT!

THE BATTLE IS *ENDED!* WE'VE *WON!*

THE *F.F.* ARE *BEATEN* AT LAST!

JACK ★ JOE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE FABULOUS F.F. FACE THE DEADLY KILLERS OF THE MAGGIA, IN...

BEBLAAM IN THE BAXTER BUILDING!

EVEN THE WORLD'S GREATEST TEAM OF SUPERHEROES HAS TO RELAX SOMETIME... AND WHAT BETTER TIME...WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN HERE, IN THEIR PENTHOUSE DEN ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING--

NOW YER WITH IT, BABY! JUST LISTEN TA ME 'N I'LL MAKE A DANCER OUTTA YA YET!

YEAH! THAT'S LIKE WOODY ALLEN TEACHING CASSIUS CLAY HOW TO BOX!

THOUGH I CANNOT SEE YOUR STEPS, BEN DEAR--

--I CAN SENSE YOUR-- ENTHUSIASM!

BY STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

JOE SINNOTT, EMBELLISHER

ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

IT STARTED INNOCENTLY ENOUGH, BUT THEN...DISASTER LOOMS--AS WE SHALL SEE--

CAN YA IMAGINE *SAMMY DAVIS* GITTIN' A LOAD'A *THIS?*

HE'D EAT HIS *HEART* OUT!

WOW! LOOKA ME *GO!* I'M *LIGHT* AS A BLASTED *FEATHER!*

KUH-RASH!

WHO'S THE *WISE-GUY?* WHO'S THE *WISE-GUY?*

ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT,* BEN DEAR?

SURE, BABY! BUT I DIDN'T 'ZACTLY DO THAT *CHAIR* NO GOOD!

ALL THAT *NOISE* UP HERE! IS-- ANYTHING *WRONG?*

EVERYONE WANTS'A GIT INTA THE *ACT!*

I DIDN'T MEAN TO *INTRUDE*--BUT A GENTLEMAN IN THE *LOBBY* ASKED ME TO BRING YOU THIS *MESSAGE--*

THAT'S OKAY! IT'S MARKED *URGENT!* --WONDER WHO IT'S *FROM?*

BAXT BUI

HEY! IS SOMEONE TRYING TO PUT US *ON?*

IT'S A *WARNING* TO US--TO MOVE *OUT* OF THE BAXTER BUILDING! AND IT'S SIGNED BY--THE *MAGGIA!*

GIMME A **LOOK** AT THAT, JUNIOR!

IT SAYS THEY **BOUGHT** THE BLASTED BUILDIN'! THAT MEANS A GANG O' CRUMMY **KILLERS** IS OUR NEW **LAND-LORD!**

WHO **GAVE** YA THIS, CHARLIE? WHAT'D HE **LOOK** LIKE?

I NEVER **SAW** HIM BEFORE, SIR!

HE WAS JUST AN **ORDINARY-LOOKING** MAN!

YEAH? WELL, HE WON'T LOOK SO **ORDINARY** AFTER I GIT **THRU** WITH 'IM!

I'LL **CLOBBER** THE BUM!

THIS HAS BEEN OUR HEAD-QUARTERS FOR **YEARS!**

NOBODY'S GETTING US **OUT** OF HERE! **NOBODY!**

WATCH IT, HALF-PINT! CAN'TCHA EVER MAKE YER **POINT** WITHOUT PULLIN' THAT **HUMAN MATCH** ACT?

FLAME OFF, JOHNNY! YOU'RE UPSETTING THE **BABY!**

NOW LET'S ALL **CALM DOWN** AND DISCUSS THIS **RATIONALLY!**

SINCE THAT WAS A **LEGAL** NOTICE, WE'LL LET OUR **LAWYERS** HANDLE IT! THAT'S WHAT WE **PAY** THEM FOR!

I DON'T WANT **SUE,** OR THE OTHER GIRLS TO REALIZE HOW REALLY **DANGEROUS** THE MAGGIA'S THREAT CAN **BE!** AT LEAST-- NOT **YET!**

LATER, AT A SLEAZY, OUT-OF-THE-WAY DOWNTOWN **RESTAURANT**--

WAIT FOR US HERE--UNTIL THE **MEETING'S** OVER!

EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL! NO **FUZZ** IN SIGHT!

COME IN, COME **IN!** THE **TOP MAN** HAS BEEN GETTING **IMPATIENT!**

KEEP YER **VOICE** DOWN, STUPID! LEAD US TO THE **BACK ROOM!**

YOU WILL **SEE** TO IT THAT WE ARE NOT **DISTURBED** --BY **ANYONE!**

DON'T **WORRY!** I'VE TAKEN ALL **PRECAUTIONS!**

I'VE EVEN TOLD MY **WAITERS** NOT TO MENTION THIS MEETING TO ANY **LIVING SOUL!**

YOU'VE **WHAT?!!**

IS--IS ANYTHING **WRONG?**

YES! YOU HAVE A **BIG MOUTH!**--IT IS **TOO** BIG FOR YOUR OWN GOOD-- OR FOR **OURS!**

I AM AFRAID, MY FRIEND, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE-- **REPLACED!**

CAN'T WE?

NO! **NO!** YOU-- YOU **CAN'T!**

FORGIVE ME! PLEASE-- **FORGIVE** ME!

HE--GAVE ME-- THE **MAGGIA TOUCH!** I AM **DOOMED!**

DON'T START READIN' ANY **CONTINUED STORIES,** PAL!

SORRY WE ARE *LATE*, TOP MAN!

YOUR *REGRETS* DO NOT INTEREST ME, GIMLET! *SIT DOWN!*

NOW TELL ME OF YOUR *PROGRESS!*

WE SENT THE NOTICE TO THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*--TO MAKE EVERYTHING NICE AND *LEGAL!*

GOOD! IT WILL BE A GREAT *TRIUMPH* FOR US TO GAIN CONTROL OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS, AND *SCIENTIFIC SECRETS*--WITHOUT A *SHOT* BEING FIRED!

BUT WHAT IF THEY PUT UP A *FIGHT?*

THEY WOULDN'T *DARE!* THE LAW IS ON *OUR* SIDE!

BUT, IF THEY *DO*--

BIG ROCK! GIVE GIMLET YOUR *GUN!*

HERE--TAKE A *SHOT* AT ME!

OUR MEN ARE OUTFITTED WITH THE LATEST *PROTECTIVE CLOTHES!*

THEY CANNOT *HURT* US!

THE NEXT DAY--

IF THE MAGGIA *REALLY* BOUGHT OUR BUILDING, WE MAY *HAVE* TO MOVE OUT!

BUT HOW COULD WE EVER PACK UP ALL OUR *INSTRUMENTS* AND *WEAPONS* IN TIME?

NO SENSE TALKIN' TA *THEM* TWO! THEY'RE ON ANOTHER *PLANET!*

AND *REED* 'N *SUE* ONLY GOT ANOTHER FEW HOURS TILL THEY TAKE THE *BABY* BACK TA *MISS HARKNESS!*

SO I AINT GONNA BOTHER *THEM!*

HEY, *LOOK--* IT'S THE *THING!*

WOW! IT'S REALLY *HIM!*

WE DON'T MEAN TO *PESTER* YOU, MR. GRIMM, BUT--

PESTER ME? YOU KIDS ARE SAVIN' ME FROM THE *FUNNY FARM!*

HOW'DJA LIKE TA SEE ME DO A LITTLE *TRICK?*

OH *BOY! WOULD* WE?!!

HERE! THIS IS WHAT YA CAN DO WHEN YA EAT YER *VITAMINS!*

'N WHEN YER TOO BLASTED *UGLY* TA BE GOOD FOR ANYTHIN' *ELSE!*

C'MON, GRIMM--KNOCK IT *OFF!* YA'LL SOON BE NEEDIN' A *CRYIN' TOWEL!*

IS IT ONE OF *YOURS,* MR. GRIMM?

LOOK--A HELICOPTER --HEADING FOR THE *BAXTER BUILDING!*

I DON'T *LIKE* IT! THAT'S GOTTA MEAN *TROUBLE!*

HECK *NO!* NEVER *SAW* IT BEFORE!

AND, A FEW YARDS AWAY--

IT'S LANDING RIGHT ON OUR ROOF!

IT'S A MAGGIA SHIP! BUT-- WHY?

REED! WHO CAN THEY BE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I THOUGHT THEY WANTED TO FIGHT US IN COURT-- NOT BY AN ATTACK!

SUE, DEAR--YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE BABY TO AGATHA HARKNESS--WHERE HE'LL BE SAFE!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS--YOU'RE TO STAY OUT OF IT!

IT'S THE MAGGIA! I KNOW IT! THEY--THEY'RE ATTACKING US!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

FLAME ON!

DON'T WORRY, GANG! THERE'S NOTHING UP THERE THE TORCH CAN'T HANDLE!

BUT, JOHNNY-- THEY'LL BE EXPECTING YOU!

THEY MUST HAVE WEAPONS READY TO-- JOHNNY!

THE MAGGIA MAY BE THE WORLD'S MOST DEADLY SYNDICATE OF CRIME--

BUT THEY'RE NOT GONNA PUSH THE OL' F.F. AROUND!

HE'S COMING! FIRE YOUR FORCE BLAST SHELLS!

THEY'RE ARMED AND READY--BUT THEY'RE NOT STOPPING ME!

I'LL HERD 'EM INTO A SINGLE CORNER!

HE WON'T BE EXPECTING THE *REFRIGI-RAY!*

THIS IS *BEAUTIFUL!* WE CAN HIT 'IM WITH EVERY-THING WE *GOT*--AND CLAIM WE'RE PROTECTIN' OUR *PROPERTY!*

WE OWN THE BUILDING NOW! *THEY'RE* THE TRESPASSERS!

AN *ICE BARRIER* --THROWN UP BY A *RAY BLAST!*

I-- ALMOST FLEW RIGHT *INTO* IT!

REMEMBER--THIS JOINT BELONGS TO THE *MAGGIA* NOW--SO *HE'S* ATTACKIN' *US!*

THERE'S NOTHIN' IN THE LAW THAT SAYS WE CAN'T *DEFEND* OUR BUILDING!

SO LET 'IM *HAVE* IT!

MAYBE I CAN *BLIND* THEM WITH A *SMOKE SCREEN!*

IT'LL GIVE ME TIME FOR A *LANDING!*

BUT, BEFORE THE VALIANT YOUTH CAN EXECUTE HIS PLAN--

IT *WORKED!* WE NAILED 'IM WITH OUR *CIRCLE OF FORCE!*

HAVE TO--STAY *AFLAME*--UNTIL I LAND--

OR--THE FALL-- WILL *FINISH* ME!

HE LANDED LIKE A *FEATHER*--

--NOT THAT IT'LL DO 'IM ANY *GOOD!*

WHAT IF HE *FLAMES ON* AGAIN?

AFTER THAT WHIFF OF *TRANQUILIZER GAS* I GAVE 'IM? NOT A *CHANCE!*

OKAY! LET'S GO DOWN AND *TAKE OVER!*

FROM NOW ON, THE *F.F.'S* HEADQUARTERS IS *OURS!*

WOW! WOTTA *LAYOUT!*

SO *THIS* IS WHERE THEY KEEP THAT *POGO PLANE* OF THEIRS!

THEY EVEN GOT THEIR OWN PRIVATE *MISSILE!*

CORRECTION! THE *TOP MAN'S* GOT IT NOW!

THAT'S WHY THE *TOP MAN* IS A *GENIUS!* NO ONE *ELSE* WOULD'A THOUGHT OF *BUYIN'* THIS DUMP RIGHT FROM *UNDER* 'EM--AND THEN TEARIN' UP THEIR *LEASE!*

WOTTA WE DO *NEXT?*

SPREAD OUT--AND GET READY FOR THEIR NEXT *ATTACK!*

AND, JUST AS PREDICTED--

I DON'T LIKE IT! IT'S MUCH TOO QUIET!

IT WON'T BE FER LONG, STRETCHO!

NOT AFTER I GIT MY PAWS ON THE PUNKS WHO LANDED UP HERE!

WHAT HAPPENED TA THE TORCH? WHY AINT HE HERE?

WE'LL LEARN THE ANSWER WHEN WE FIND THEM, BEN!

HEAD FOR THE TV MONITOR ROOM, OLD FRIEND!

IT'S A WASTE O' TIME! AINT NOBODY HERE!

CLOSED CIRCUIT MONITORS

BUT OUR SCAN-SCREENS ARE IN OPERATION!

STORAGE

APARTMEN

ELECTRONI

MAGGIA-MEN--ALL OVER THE PLACE!

THEY MUST BE MAD TO CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR! UNLESS--

UNLESS THEY'RE HOLDING JOHNNY --AS A HOSTAGE!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT--

THIS IS THE F.F! LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER--OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

NOT THIS TIME, RICHARDS! WE'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!

THE TORCH IS OUR PRISONER!

MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE--AND YA NEVER SEE 'IM AGAIN--ALIVE, THAT IS!

OKAY, BIG BRAIN-- WOTTA WE DO NOW?

WE WAIT! IT'S THEIR MOVE, NEXT!

AND WE'RE MAKIN' IT *NOW!*

GUNMEN-- AT THE *DOOR!*

WHILE THEY KEPT US BUSY *TALKING,* THEY--

SHEESH! ARE YOU STILL *TALKIN'!?*

QUIET, BEN! I'M CONTACT-ING *SUE!*

YOUR TIME HAS RUN *OUT!* THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS *FINISHED!*

NOXO-GAS!

BEN! CRYSTAL! HOLD YOUR *BREATH--!*

LOCK THE DOOR-- *FAST!*

THEY CAN'T HOLD THEIR BREATH *FOREVER!*

BKOOOM

LOOK OUT! IT'S THE *THING--* HE SMASHED THRU THE *DOOR!*

TOO LATE! THE GAS HAS ALREADY *DONE* ITS WORK!

THEY'RE *BEATEN* AT LAST! THE *MAGGIA* HAS WON!

AND NOW--WE WILL *DISPOSE* OF THEM!

BUT THE *TOP MAN* SAID *NO KILLIN'!* HE WANTED EVERY-THIN' DONE REAL *LEGAL!*

BUT *HE* AINT HERE NOW--AND GIMLET *IS!*

WHEN THE MAGGIA *SUPREME COUNCIL* FINDS OUT HOW I *HANDLED* THINGS--*I'LL* BE THE NEW *TOP MAN* AROUND HERE!

SO *MOVE!* GIT THOSE CONCRETE *CRATES* IN HERE!

THEY'RE ALL *READY* FOR YA, GIMLET!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SEEIN' THE *END* OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

THIS IS *ONE* FIGHT THEY AINT NEVER WALKIN' *AWAY* FROM!

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LATER, ON A LONELY ROAD ALONG THE JERSEY FLATS--

OKAY, STOP *HERE!* THIS IS FAR ENUFF!

RRRRRRRRRR

I HOPE THEY DON'T GIT *SEASICK!*

SHUDDUP 'N GET OUTTA HERE!

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BUT, EVEN BEFORE THE LAST CRATE HAS TOUCHED BOTTOM, A SUDDEN **ELEMENTAL SHOCK WAVE** SEEMS TO **ROCK** THE RIVER BED--

FTOOM

AND THEN--

I'M **FREE!**

REED RICHARDS --TRYING TO PRY HIS CRATE **OPEN!**

THE STRAIN IS TOO **GREAT!** HE'LL NEVER **MAKE** IT--!

UNLESS--I CAN **HELP** HIM--!

SHOOSH

CRYSTAL **FREED** ME! BUT--WHAT ABOUT **JOHNNY**-- AND **BEN?**

CAN'T-- HEAD FOR THE SURFACE --**WITHOUT** THEM!

SHE DID--ALL SHE **COULD!** NEEDS **AIR**-- OR--SHE'S **THRU!**

SO--IT'S UP TO **ME**--TO GET THE **OTHERS!**

BEN-- **WAKE UP!** YOU **MUST**-- WAKE UP--!!

THE *JARRING*--WOKE HIM! HE'S--*PUNCHING* HIS WAY--OUT!

*SECONDS LATER--WITH THE MIGHTY-MUSCLED **THING** HOLDING THE CRATE CONTAINING **JOHNNY STORM**--TWO GASPING FIGURES REACH THE SURFACE--*

WE *DID* IT, BEN! WE'VE REACHED THE *SURFACE!*

THANKS FER *TELLIN'* ME, MISTER!

DIDJA THINK I WOULDN'T *RECOGNIZE* IT?

THEN, AFTER A LONG AND GRUELLING SWIM--

WE'RE *SAFE*--FOR NOW! WE CAN STOP--AND *REST!*

BUT FIRST--OPEN THAT *CRATE*, BEN! JOHNNY MAY NEED--FIRST AID!

HE'LL BE OKAY! I POKED 'IM AN *AIR HOLE* ON TOP OF IT!

JOHNNY! *JOHNNY!* HE'S SO *STILL*--SO *LIFELESS!* OH, BEN--*BEN*--IS HE--IS HE--??

HE'S OKAY, KID! HE JUST WON'T HAVETA TAKE A *BATH* FER THE NEXT COUPLE'A YEARS!

WE'LL GIVE HIM A MINUTE TO REGAIN HIS *BREATH*--BUT NOT A MINUTE *EXTRA!*

WE'RE *RE-TAKING* THE BAXTER BUILDING--NO MATTER *WHAT* THE COST!

AND SO--
WHAT IF HE DON'T STOP FOR YA?
HE'LL STOP! --IF ONLY TO QUESTION HIS SIGHT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JOHNNY! YOU CAN REST IN BACK OF THE TRUCK!
NEXT TIME, STOW THE LONE RANGER BIT, JUNIOR! WE'RE SUPPOSEDTA BE A TEAM, IN CASE YA FERGOT!
I FEEL I'VE SEEN YOU FOLKS SOME-WHERE--?
SKIP THE REMINISCENCES! JUST DRIVE!
POOR, DEAR JOHNNY! HERE--LET ME HOLD YOUR HEAD IN MY LAP!
Y'KNOW--ALL OF A SUDDEN, I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD EITHER!
YOU GET AN ASPERIN, YOU BIG APE!
NOW, WHERE WERE WE, CRYS?
MEANWHILE, BACK AT FF HEADQUARTERS--
C'MON-- C'MON-- GIT THE LEAD OUT!
MAGGIA MEN--ALL OVER THE PLACE!
THIS IS WHY REED SUMMONED ME!
BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?
HEY! THE DETECTOR'S GOIN' MAD!
IT'S THE INVISIBLE GIRL! SHE'S HERE!
BEEP! BEEP!
THEY KNOW I'M HERE! HAVE TO KEEP MOVING!
ALL OF YA --KEEP SWINGIN' YOUR ARMS AROUND!
EVEN IF YA CAN'T SEE HER, WE'RE SURE TO-- HEY! I GOT 'ER!
HOLD HER! BUT BE CAREFUL! SHE'S TRICKY!
TRICKIER THAN YOU KNOW!
HERE! CHEW ON THIS FOR A WHILE!
SHE--BELTED ME WITH SOMETHIN' I CAN'T SEE!
FOOL! IT'S AN INVISIBLE FORCE SPHERE!

SWING *AROUND* HERE, YOU GUYS! SHE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE *CENTER!*

SHE CAN'T GIT *AWAY!* THERE'S NO PLACE TO *RUN!*

NO--BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM TO *DUCK!*

THOK!

NOW, IF I CAN MOVE *FAST* ENOUGH--!

HEY! LOOK AT THE *FIRE HOSE!* IT'S *FLOATIN'!*

IT'S *HER,* YOU LUNK-HEAD! SHE'S *GRABBIN'* IT!

LOOK OUT! IT'S A *HIGH-PRESSURE NOZZLE!*

DUCK *AROUND* HER-- AT THE SIDE! *HURRY* IT UP, BLAST YA!

SNUP!

TOO *BAD,* LADY!

NOT EVEN *YOU* CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT *ONCE!*

I'VE *GOT* TO STAY FREE--I'VE *GOT* TO! THE OTHERS MAY *NEED* ME!

UNHH!

AWRIGHT, SISTER-- YOU'VE **HAD** IT! WE FOUND OUT WHERE YA LEFT YOUR **KID!**

FRANKLIN! IF-- ANY HARM--SHOULD COME TO **HIM--!!**

HAH! I FIGGERED **THAT** WOULD MAKE YA TURN **VISIBLE!**

ACTUALLY-- THERE WAS **ANOTHER** REASON, ALSO!

YEAH? HOW'S ABOUT TELLIN' ME ALL **ABOUT** IT--WHILE YA **CAN!**

I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO **LISTEN!**

NO? WHY **NOT?**

HOW'DJA LIKE THREE ITTY-BITTY **GUESSES?**

WHA--?!! THE--THE **THING!!**

HOW'DJA **RECOGNIZE** ME?

I'M NOT THRU **YET!** STAY BACK--**BACK**--OR I'LL SHOOT THE **GIRL!**

WHY **YOU--!!**

IT'S **ALL RIGHT,** REED DARLING! I CAN FORM MY **FORCE FIELD** FASTER THAN HE CAN SQUEEZE HIS **TRIGGER!**

NO! NO! NO!

HELP!! GET ME **OUTTA** HERE! THE **SHELLS**--RICOCHETTING ALL **AROUND** ME!!

DROP YOUR FORCE FIELD, HONEY! HE'S FINISHED!

OH, REED--REED! I WAS SO WORRIED-- ABOUT ALL OF YOU!

STAY BACK! MY CHOPPER'S STILL GOT AMMO LEFT!

HEY! WHAT DOES IT TAKE TA MAKE YA SAY UNCLE?

YOU'RE WHISTLIN' IN THE DARK, FELLA!

ANY ONE OF US CAN TAKE YOU--WITH NO SWEAT!

YOU'RE LYING! I CAN'T LOSE NOW! I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

DROP THAT GUN, GIMLET!

YOU!

YOU WOULDN'T SHOOT ME! YOU WOULDN'T--

UNNHH!

IT'S LUCKY I WAS PASSING BY, SIR! HE SURE LOOKED DANGEROUS!

I CAME UP TO SEE WHAT ALL THE COMMOTION WAS!

BAXTER BLDG

YOU-- DIDN'T HAVE TO-- SHOOT HIM!

HE SOUNDED AS THOUGH-- HE *KNEW* YOU!

I'VE BEEN THE *DOORMAN* HERE FOR WEEKS!

HE'S OFTEN *PASSED* ME--IN THE *LOBBY!*

WHY ARE YOU TAKING MY *GUN?* I WAS ONLY DOING MY *DUTY!*

IT WON'T *WORK,* FELLA! I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED YOU *SOONER*-- BUT NOW, IT'S SUDDENLY *CLEAR* TO ME!

JOHNNY! TAKE HIS *CAP* OFF!

HEY! THERE WUZ A PHONY *WIG*-- 'N A *MASK* ATTACHED!

WHAT A PERFECT SPOT TO *SPY* ON US--ACTING AS *DOORMAN* AT THE BAXTER BUILDING!

YOU'RE THE MAGGIA LEADER KNOWN AS *TOP MAN!* YOU TOOK THE JOB OF *DOORMAN* TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE LAYOUT OF OUR *HEADQUARTERS!*

I-- WANTED TO *CRUSH* YOU--ALL *LEGAL!!*

IT WAS *GIMLET* WHO RUINED EVERYTHING! HE WAS A *KILLER!*

AND SO WERE *YOU,* TOP MAN--WHEN THE CHIPS WERE *DOWN!*

YOU REVERTED TO *TYPE*--LIKE ALL THE *OTHERS!*

NO MATTER *HOW* THEY TRY TO BEND THE LAW TO THEIR OWN ENDS--THEY CAN'T *DO* IT! THEY NEVER *WILL!*

SUE--YOU-- YOU'RE *CRYING!*

REED-- I WAS THINKING --ABOUT OUR *SON!*

WHY, DARLING-- *WHY* MUST HE GROW UP IN A WORLD OF *CRIME*-- AND *FEAR?*

THAT'S WHY WE *FIGHT,* MY DARLING--TO *CHANGE* THAT WORLD--AS MUCH AS WE *CAN!*

NEXT THE SUB-MARINER!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ | 102 SEPT

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FEATURING: THE SUPER-STRENGTH OF THE SUB-MARINER!

CRUSH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

ALSO CO-STARRING: THE MURDEROUS MIGHT OF MAGNETO!

NAMOR HAS GONE MAD! HE'S ATTACKING US!

THIS IS THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

J.R. + J.V.

ONCE MORE THE F.F. MUST PIT THEIR POWERS AGAINST--

THE STRENGTH OF THE SUB-MARINER

CO-STARRING THE MONSTROUS MENACE OF MAGNETO!

C'MON, BLUE-EYES! CRYS ISN'T GONNA *HURT* YOU!

THIS *MEDICINE* IS SURE TO RELIEVE YOUR *FLU*, MR. GRIMM!

ALL RIGHT NOW, OPEN *WIDE*--

NUTS! I'D RATHER HAB THE *CODE* THAN HAVETA *SWAWWOW* THIS STUFF!

PRODUCED & PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE
and
JACK KIRBY

JOE SINNOTT,
EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER

343Z

THERE NOW! THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?

MY AUNT PETUNIA USEDTA GIMME A JELLY BEAN AFTER I TOOK MY MEDICINE!

CRYS! LOOK OUT!

WHAT IS IT?

HABBA-- HABBA-- HABBA-- HABBA--

--HABBBBBBBBA--

HE'S GONNA SNEEZE!

CHOOO!

B-BLESS YOU, MR. GRIMM!

ANOTHER ONE LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL WRECK THE WHOLE FURSHLUGGINER BUILDING!

WHAT'S ALL THE *COMMOTION* IN HERE?

SUE IS TRYING TO GET THE *BABY* TO SLEEP!

SPEAKING OF *BABIES,* REED, DID YOU EVER TRY TO GET BASHFUL *BENJAMIN* TO SWALLOW HIS *MEDICINE?*

PICK, PICK, PICK! ALL DAY LONG, EVERYONE *PICKS* ON ME!

LITTLE *FRANKLIN* IS ALL RIGHT, ISN'T HE, MR. RICHARDS?

SO *FAR,* CRYSTAL! BUT, WITH ALL THIS *FLU* AROUND--

IT'S THE ROTTEN *WEATHER* WE'VE BEEN HAVING!

AS SOON AS THE WEATHER *CLEARS,* WE'LL FLY HIM BACK TO *MISS HARKNESS*-- IN THE COUNTRY!

BUT IT'S GOOD FOR *SUE* TO HAVE HIM *WITH* HER EVERY SO OFTEN-- AND GOOD FOR LITTLE *FRANKLIN,* ALSO!

IF ONLY THE CITY WASN'T SO *GLOOMY* ON A DAY LIKE THIS!

IT FEELS LIKE AN *OMEN* --OF SOME IMPENDING *DISASTER!*

AND, EVEN AS THE LOVELY CRYSTAL SPEAKS --FAR BENEATH FROZEN ANTARCTICA, A SPEEDY PATROL SHIP OF THE ROYAL ATLANTIS NAVY KNIFES THRU THE SILENT DEEP--

HAVE WE REACHED OUR *OBJECTIVE,* CAPTAIN?

YES, SIRE! DIRECTLY AHEAD IS THE SITE OF THE MYSTERIOUS *SHOCK WAVE!*

REMAIN AT YOUR POSTS! I SHALL PERSONALLY INVESTIGATE THE AREA!

THE SUB-MARINER SPEAKS! LET ALL OTHERS OBEY!

THE WATERS ARE WARM! AND YET, THEY SHOULD BE ICY!

I WILL SEEK THE ANSWER UPON THE SURFACE ABOVE!

SMOKE IN THE DISTANCE-- RISING FROM A PRIMITIVE ISLE!

ANCIENT REPTILES--HEADING FOR THE SMOLDERING SITE!

THIS IS THE AFTERMATH OF SOME MIGHTY EXPLOSION!

AND THERE-- AHEAD OF ME-- A SOLE SURVIVOR!

BACK, AT THE COMMAND OF NAMOR! HIS CARCASS IS NOT FOR YOU!

A PRINCE OF THE BLOOD MUST BE EVER OBEYED!

NO MATTER THE MOMENT-- NO MATTER THE PLACE!

IMPERIUS REX!

HE BREATHES! I MUST TAKE HIM TO ATLANTIS, WHILE THE FLAME OF LIFE STILL FLICKERS!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AND A LONG, LONG DISTANCE AWAY--

HEY, HOW ABOUT THAT? IT AINT RAININ' NO MORE!

WELL WADDAYA KNOW?!! SOMEONE DROPPED SOMETHIN' IN MY PAW!

BUT--WE'RE ON THE BLASTED THIRTY-FIFTH FLOOR!!

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN *IMAGINING* IT, MR. GRIMM!

DOES *THIS* LOOK LIKE SOMETHIN' I DREAMED UP OUTTA *HAMFAT,* LADY!

IT'S A TINY, GIFT-WRAPPED *BOX!*

RELAX, ROCK-HEAD! IT'S JUST A NEW BOTTLE OF *COUGH MEDICINE* I GOT FOR YOU!

YA CRUMMY, HUMAN *MATCH-STICK!* I MIGHTA *KNOWED* IT WUZ *YOU!*

JUST WAIT'LL *YOU* GIT A COLD, HALF-PINT!

I'LL FEEDJA *CASTOR OIL* BY THE *GALLON!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO *CATCH* ME FIRST!

HEY! WHAT'S *THAT?!!*

SOMETHING TORE THE *TOP* OF THAT BUILDING--CLEAN *OFF!*

IT'S ZOOMING *AFTER* ME--LIKE A *MISSILE!*

IT'S TOO *BIG*--MOVING TOO *FAST*--FOR ME TO *MELT!*

BUT IF I CAN LEAD IT--TO THE *RIVER--!*

NOW--I'VE GOT TO PLUNGE IN-- AT TOP SPEED!

I'M IN LUCK! IT FOLLOWED ME-- IT'LL SINK HERE!

MEANWHILE--

YA WORKIN' ON SOME FAR-OUT INVENTION TA SAVE THE WORLD, STRETCHO?

NOT EXACTLY, BEN--

IT'S A NEW FEEDING FORMULA --FOR FRANKLIN!

NUTS! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SUPER HERO GOES DOMESTIC!

--'N I WISH IT WOULD HAPPEN TA ME!

HEY! AINT IT TIME THAT PIPSQUEAK HOT-SHOT WUZ GETTIN' BACK HERE?

MAYBE HE'S PRICING SOME TRANQUILIZERS FOR YOU, BEN!

YUK YUK YUK! VER-RRRY FUNNY!

AWW, NO! THIS TIME I AM GOIN' BANANAS--FER SURE!

THE WHOLE BLAMED SKY IS FILLED WITH ALL KINDA JUNK!

--LOOKS LIKE IT'S RAININ' TIN!

YOU'RE NOT IMAGINING IT, OLD FRIEND! I SEE IT, TOO!

BIG DEAL! SO WE'RE BOTH LOSIN' OUR MARBLES!

WHILE, HALF A WORLD AWAY--

THE *EQUIPMENT* HERE IN NAMOR'S LAB CAN *MAGNIFY* MY *MAGNETIC POWERS* A HUNDREDFOLD!

MAGNETO! YOU ARE ORDERED TO THE *ROYAL COURT*-- BY COMMAND OF *NAMOR THE FIRST!*

YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME AT *ONCE!*

WHEN YOU APPROACH THE SOVEREIGN *LORD OF ATLANTIS,* YOU WILL NOT *SPEAK* UNTIL YOU ARE FIRST *SPOKEN TO!*

SPARE ME YOUR ADVICE! *MAGNETO* TOO WAS BORN TO *COMMAND!*

MINUTES LATER, AFTER **SUB-MARINER** HAS LEARNED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF **MAGNETO'S** PLIGHT (WHICH ALL FAITHFUL **MARVELITES** SAVORED IN ISH #**63** OF **X-MEN**), THE POWER-MAD LEADER OF EARTH'S **EVIL MUTANTS** MAKES A FATEFUL PROPOSAL--

NEITHER YOU NOR I ARE TRULY **HUMAN,** NAMOR! **NEITHER** OF US WILL EVER BE **TRUSTED** BY THE WORLD ABOVE!

THEREFORE, WHY DO WE NOT **JOIN FORCES?** **THINK** OF IT, SUB-MARINER-- **YOUR** POWER COMBINED WITH **MINE!** WHO COULD HOPE TO STAND **AGAINST** US?

YOU HINT AT *WAR*-- WHILE I HAVE EVER STRIVEN FOR *PEACE!*

AND YET, THERE IS MUCH *TRUTH* IN THE WORDS YOU SPEAK!

THEN *THINK* UPON IT, NAMOR! THINK LONG --AND DEEP!

HEY, REED-- THE *TORCH* JUST CAME BACK!

AND WAIT'LL YA HEAR WHAT'S BEEN *HAPPENIN'* OUTSIDE!

I ALREADY *KNOW* ABOUT IT, BEN!

A STRANGE *MAGNETIC FORCE* HAS BEEN PLAYING *HAVOC* WITH THE CITY!

THAT'S WHY I'M DEVELOPING THIS *MAGNA-TRACER*-- TO TRACK IT TO ITS POINT OF *ORIGIN!*

SO FAR, ALL MY PRELIMINARY RESEARCH HAS POINTED TO JUST *ONE* SHOCKING FACT--

THE *SOURCE* OF THE DISTURBANCES SEEMS TO BE THE KINGDOM OF--*ATLANTIS!*

YA MEAN--THE BLASTED *SUB-MARINER'S* BEHIND ALL THIS?!!

I'LL *MOIDER* THE BUM!

WE CAN'T YET BE *POSITIVE,* BEN!

BUT I'M SENDING FORTH A *SONIC PROBE,* WHICH WILL *TELL* US WHAT WE HAVE TO *KNOW!*

CLICK!

THEN, IF ANY *FURTHER* DISTURBANCES TAKE PLACE--

A *SECOND* PRESS OF THE BUTTON WILL SEND A *CONCUSSION MISSILE* TO THE SITE, TO *WARN* THEM OF THEIR *FOLLY!*

IF YA ASK *ME*, A POKE IN THE *SNOOT* WOULD DO IT *BETTER!*

HOW COME YA ALWAYS GOTTA DREAM UP SOME NUTTY KINDA *SCIENTIFIC JAZZ?*

YA FIGGER WE WON'T BE *IMPRESSED* IF YA DON'T JUST--*HEY!!* WHAT'S GOIN' *ON?*

BEN! LOOK OUT! THOSE *ELECTRODES*-- IF THEY TOUCH YOUR *HEAD--!*

TOO LATE!

ZZZZZZZZZ

OUR *ELECTRICAL APPARATUS*-- MOVING BY *ITSELF!*

IT'S AS THOUGH THE LAB'S GONE *MAD!*

THE *CABLES*-- COILING AROUND ME!

I'LL GET 'EM OFF YOU, REED!

FLAME ON!

NO-- DON'T TRY IT, JOHNNY!

NOT EVEN FIRE CAN HELP!

THE COILS AVOID THE FLAME AS IF THEY'RE ALIVE!

AND IF I MAKE IT STRONGER-- IT'LL JUST BURN YOU!

TORCH-- LOOK OUT! DEFEND YOURSELF!!

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THE CONTROL BOARD IS OPERATING BY ITSELF!

IT'S HURLING A VACUUM BLAST

CAN'T-- STAY AFLAME! THE PRESSURE'S TOO GREAT!

CRYS-- WHAT ARE YOU-- DOING?

HAVE TO USE MY ELEMENTAL POWER-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

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YOU *DID* IT! YOU *WRECKED* THE CONTROL PANEL!

IT LOOSENED THE *WIRES!* I'M *FREE* AGAIN!

OUR OWN *EQUIPMENT*-- ALL UNDER *MAGNETIC CONTROL*-- FROM SOME FAR *DISTANT* SOURCE!

THE RAW *POWER* THAT IT REPRESENTS--IS ALMOST *INDESCRIBABLE!*

IF *CRYS* HADN'T *SMASHED* IT-- THERE'S NO TELLING *WHAT* MIGHT'VE HAPPENED!

RIGHT, JOHNNY! BUT THE DANGER'S NOT *OVER* YET!

THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN THE *NEXT ATTACK* WILL COME!

YEAH? THEN I SAY WE DON'T *HANG AROUND* WAITIN' TA BE SOMEONE'S *PIGEONS!*

I SAY IT'S TIME FOR THE OL' *F.F.* TA START CARRYIN' THE BALL!

BEN! YOU RELEASED THE *MISSILE!* IT'LL FOLLOW THE *SONIC WAVE*-- RIGHT TO ITS *TARGET!*

YOU JUST *KNOW* IT, MISTER!

CLICK!

AND NOW--BACK TO ATLANTIS AGAIN--AS THE SONIC WAVE STRIKES--

OUR CITY IS *ROCKED* BY A GIGANTIC *SHOCK!*

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!! ATLANTIS IS *CRUMBLING!*

STAND FAST, ATLANTEANS! DO NOT *PANIC!* THE REALM WILL *ENDURE!*

ABOVE ME--A GIANT *ARCH,* BEGINNING TO *TOPPLE!* IF IT SHOULD *COLLAPSE,* HUNDREDS BELOW WOULD SURELY *PERISH!*

THEREFORE, I SWEAR BY *KING NEPTUNE--* *IT SHALL NOT COLLAPSE!*

ANOTHER MOMENT *LONGER,* AND MY SUBJECTS SHALL BE *SAFE!* I MUST NOT *WEAKEN!* I MUST NOT *FALTER!*

IT IS *DONE!* THE DANGER IS *PAST!*

BUT THE *WRATH OF NAMOR* HAS BEEN *AROUSED!* MY ROYAL *BLOOD* NOW CRIES FOR *VENGEANCE!*

BUT *FIRST*-- THERE MUST BE AN *INQUIRY!*

MAGNETO! HAVE HIM *BROUGHT* TO ME AT *ONCE!*

SIRE! IT SHALL BE *DONE!*

SPEAK! WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW OF THE DEADLY *SHOCK WAVE?*

I KNOW *MORE* THAN YOU THINK, SUB-MARINER!

I *TRACED* IT MAGNETICALLY-- WITHIN YOUR LABORATORY!

IT WAS TRIGGERED IN *NEW YORK*--THE HOME OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

SO! THEY ATTACK ME *AGAIN!*

I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN!*

BUT *THIS* TIME YOU NEED NOT FACE THEM *ALONE!*

NOW YOU SHALL HAVE THE AID OF--*MAGNETO!*

I AM *NAMOR THE FIRST,* LORD OF THE SEA! I NEED *NO* AID!

DON'T BE A *FOOL!* *TOGETHER*--WE CAN ACCOMPLISH *ANY-THING!*

MY *PRINCE!* A *MISSILE* HAS BEEN SIGHTED! EVEN *NOW,* IT APPROACHES AT INCALCULABLE *SPEED!*

HAVE THE SURFACEMEN GONE *MAD?*

THERE ON THE *VIEW-SCREEN,* SIRE! SEE FOR *YOURSELF!*

I RECOGNIZE IT AS A HARMLESS *CONCUSSION TYPE*--USED MERELY AS A *WARNING!*

BUT *NAMOR* NEED NOT KNOW THAT!

IT MUST BE *INTERCEPTED*-- BEFORE IT *STRIKES!*

NO MERE *TORPEDO* CAN EQUAL THE UNDERSEA *SPEED* OF NAMOR!

JUST AS NO MERE MISSILE CAN COPE WITH THE SUB-MARINER'S *STRENGTH!*

ONCE *AGAIN* ATLANTIS IS *SAFE!*

BUT I MUST BE *CERTAIN* IT SO *REMAINS!*

NAMOR *DESTROYED* THE MISSILE! HIS *SPEED*--HIS *POWER*--ARE EVEN *GREATER* THAN I SUSPECTED!

FATE HAS OFFERED ME THE PERFECT *PAWN* TO DO MY FATEFUL *BIDDING!*

I MUST CONTINUE *GOADING* HIM--MAKE HIM FEEL HE FIGHTS A NOBLE *CRUSADE* TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE!

SO LONG AS MEN FEEL THE *END* CAN JUSTIFY THE *MEANS*--

SO LONG AS THEY SEEK TO *JUSTIFY* BATTLE--AND CARNAGE--AND ENDLESS *KILLING*--

--SO LONG WILL *MAGNETO* STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO *DESTROY* THE HUMAN RACE!

WHETHER ON THE *SURFACE*--OR BENEATH THE SEA--THEIR FOOLISH *PRIDE*--THEIR *ANGER*--AND THEIR *FEARS*--DRIVE THEM TO *WAR*--EVEN AS THEY LONG FOR *PEACE!*

THE *FOOLS!* THE BLIND, UNWITTING *FOOLS!*

ASSEMBLE YOUR RANKS! THE *SIGNAL* HAS BEEN SOUNDED!

JUST AS I *PLANNED*! NAMOR IS *MOBILIZING* HIS FORCES!

WE *STAND*-- OR *DIE*-- WITH *NAMOR*!

IMPERIUS REX!

YOU MUST LET *ME* BATTLE AT YOUR SIDE!

DO AS YOU *WISH*, MAGNETO!

BUT HEED THESE WORDS-- *NAMOR* DOES NOT *SHARE* THE COMMAND!

THE *SUB-MARINER ALONE* SHALL LEAD THE ATTACK!

THE *SUB-MARINER ALONE* SHALL *CRUSH THE HUMAN RACE*!

AND, SPEAKING OF THE **HUMAN RACE,** LET'S RETURN TO THE MOST **COLORFUL** SEGMENT THAT WE CAN FIND--

BEN, YOU ACTED TOO **QUICKLY!** I WASN'T YET READY TO **LAUNCH** THE MISSILE!

BIG DEAL! A GUY COULD DIE OF **OLD AGE** WAITIN' FER **YOU** TA MAKE UP YER MIND!

YOU CAN'T EVEN **HICCUP** WITHOUT YA GOTTA MAKE A **SPEECH** FIRST!

REED'S OUR **LEADER,** MAN! AND IF YOU DON'T **LIKE** IT--!

AWRIGHT! AWRIGHT! DON'T **SCARE** ME TA DEATH, KIDDO!

SO I **MADE** ONE CRUMMY **MISTAKE!** IT AINT THE END OF THE **WORLD,** IS IT?

I--WISH I COULD **ANSWER** THAT, BEN!

LOOK! THERE'S NEW **ACTIVITY** ON THE MARINE **RADARSCOPE!**

A **FLEET**-- HEADIN' THIS WAY!

--OR, MEBBE IT'S JUST A HERD OF **WHALES!**

IF ONLY WE COULD BE THAT **LUCKY!**

ALARM

IF THE **VIBRO-ALARM** SOUNDS, IT MEANS A FLEET OF **WARSHIPS!**

AND IF **THAT'S** THE CASE-- WE'RE IN FOR--

WAR!

DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ CC

103 OCT

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Fantastic Four

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THIS TIME I WILL SHOW NO MERCY!

THE THING BATTLES NAMOR!

SHOCKING! THE F.F. and NAMOR BOTH MEET DEFEAT!

THE FABULOUS F.F. ARE THE FIRST TO FIGHT--AND THE FIRST TO FALL--

AT WAR WITH ATLANTIS!

SEE-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE AWARE OF MY MILITARY PREPARATIONS!

THE THE TIME TO ATTACK IS NOW, NAMOR-- NOW!

SINCE HIS RESCUE BY SUB-MARINER (WHICH WE SAW LAST ISSUE), THE EVIL MAGNETO HAS BEEN GOADING THE REGAL PRINCE TO LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST MANKIND! AND NOW, THRU TRICKERY AND DECEIT, HIS DEADLY PLAN HAS ALMOST SUCCEEDED..

PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY:

STAN LEE and JOHN ROMITA

J. VERPOORTEN INKER | SAM ROSEN LETTERER

3857

EVEN AS THE TWO, SUPER-POWERED ALLIES *SPEAK*, NAMOR'S MIGHTY *INVASION FLEET* TAKES TO THE SURFACE.. WAITING FOR ITS LEADER'S IMPERIAL *COMMAND*...

ALL IS IN TOTAL *READINESS!*

WE HAVE ATTAINED FULL *COMBAT STRENGTH!*

SEA SCOUTS.. TAKE TO THE *SKIES!*

FOLLOW PLAN 4 .. *OBSERVE AND PROTECT!*

MAGNETO-- *STAND BACK!*

NONE TELL *PRINCE NAMOR* WHEN TO GIVE A *COMMAND!*

I DO NOT *LIGHTLY* REGARD THE *LIVES* OF MY FELLOW *ATLANTEANS!*

NOR EVEN THOSE OF THE *SURFACE DWELLERS!*

I CAN'T LET HIM CHANGE HIS MIND *NOW*.. AND I *WON'T!*

MEANWHILE, ATOP THE WORLD-FAMED *BAXTER BUILDING*, THE MOOD IS EQUALLY *GRIM*.. EQUALLY *NERVE-WRACKING*...

I *HAD* TO DO IT! IT WAS MY *DUTY* TO ALERT THE *PENTAGON!*

REED! DOES THAT MEAN-- WAR IS *IN-EVITABLE?*

I PRAY THAT IT *DOESN'T*, DARLING!

THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO CON-TACT THE *PRESI-DENT*.. RIGHT *NOW!*

NUTS! THE WAY OUR LUCK'S BEEN *RUNNIN'* LATELY...

-- HE'LL BE OUT TA *LUNCH*, AN' WE'LL END UP WITH *SPIRO!*

THIS IS *RICHARDS*-- OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, CALLING!

CLEAR ALL CIRCUITS! ACTIVATE *FREQUENCY RED!* TOP PRIORITY! TOP PRIORITY!

AN *IMAGE* IS FORMING! THEY'VE PUT YOU THRU TO THE *WAR ROOM!*

TALK *FAST*, RICHARDS! WE'RE PLANNING OUR *STRATEGY!* EVERY MINUTE *COUNTS!*

NO! YOU'VE GOT TO *MARK TIME*-- UNTIL I CAN REACH THE *WHITE HOUSE!*

WITH *NAMOR* ABOUT TO *ATTACK?* ARE YOU *MAD*, MAN?

IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--- *LISTEN!*

WE *KNOW* NAMOR! WE'VE FACED HIM *BEFORE!* THERE MAY STILL BE A *CHANCE*-- TO *REASON* WITH HIM!

BUT, IF WE *DELAY* ..THINK OF THE *RISK!*

WOULD YOU RATHER FIGHT A *WAR*.. THAT COULD HAVE BEEN *PREVENTED?*

FLAME ON!

NUTS! WHILE THEY'RE *TALKING*, I CAN *REACH* NAMOR-- AND *STALL* HIM!

TORCH! COME *BACK* HERE--!

JOHNNY! WAIT!

WHY DON'TCHA LET 'IM **GO**, BIG BRAIN?

AT LEAST HE'S **DOIN'** SOMETHIN'!

LIKE **YOU** DID, BEN--?

.. WHEN YOU LAUNCHED THAT **MISSILE** PREMATURELY, CONVINCING **ATLANTIS** THAT WE WERE WAGING **WAR**?*

*THAT'S FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO **MISSED** LAST ISH.. JUST TO SHOW WE'RE NOT ANGRY! -- STAN.

JOHNNY.. FLAME OFF! I MEAN **NOW!**

REED'S **ARM!** HAVE TO DO WHAT HE **SAYS**.. OR **BURN** HIM!

OKAY, BROTHER-IN-LAW-- YOU WIN!

YOU CAN LET **GO** NOW! YOU **MADE** YOUR GRANDSTAND PLAY!

DON'T TAKE IT **PERSONALLY,** KID!

THE DANGER'S TOO **GREAT!** WE'VE GOT TO ACT LIKE A **TEAM**.. WITH A **PLAN!**

LOOK! THE **VIEW-SCREEN!**

RICHARDS! STAND BY! WE'VE CONTACTED THE **WHITE HOUSE!**

ALL CIRCUITS ARE **OPEN,** GENERAL!

SUE! BRING THE **BABY** IN HERE, DEAR!

WHILE THERE'S STILL **TIME**.. I WANT YOU TO TAKE HIM **UPSTATE**.. TO **MISS HARKNESS!**

BUT WHAT ABOUT **NAMOR** WHAT IF.. YOU **NEED** ME?

YOU CAN REJOIN US **LATER!**

THE **IMPORTANT** THING IS...

LITTLE **FRANKLIN** MUST BE SAFE!

IF THERE *IS* AN ATTACK, THE ENTIRE *EASTERN SEABOARD* WILL HAVE TO BE *EVACUATED!*

THIS IS THE *FIRST* PLACE WHERE NAMOR WOULD *STRIKE!*

HEY-- *HEADS UP*, BIG MAN! WE GOT *COMPANY!*

STRETCHO!! DIDJA *HEAR* ME? LOOK WHO IT *IS!!*

EASY, MR. GRIMM! LET US TRY TO *LOWER* OUR VOICES!

REED WILL BE RIGHT *WITH* YOU, SIR!

MR. PRESIDENT-- ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GIVE *US* A CHANCE TO DEAL WITH THE *SUB-MARINER*-- BEFORE WE FIND OURSELVES IN A CATASTROPHIC *WAR!*

A WAR THAT COULD *DESTROY* THE PLANET *EARTH* ITSELF!

VERY WELL, YOU WILL *HAVE* YOUR CHANCE!

BUT LET ME MAKE *ONE* THING PERFECTLY *CLEAR*...

OUR ARMED FORCES WILL BE *READY*... IN CASE YOU *FAIL!*

WE *DARE NOT* FAIL!

USE THE *AERO-CAR*, DARLING!

ITS BUILT-IN *SENSOR-CIRCUITS* WILL LEAD YOU *TO* US AFTER YOU'VE LEFT THE BABY!

ONCE I GIT MY PAWS ON *FISH-FACE*, IT'LL BE *OVER* BY THEN!

YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY *HERE*, CRYS-- FOR *COMMUNI-CATIONS!*

BUT, *JOHNNY*.. MY PLACE IS WITH *YOU!*

NO, HONEY... *NO!*

LIKE REED SAID-- WE'RE A TEAM-- WE HAVE TO ACT LIKE A TEAM---

AND HE'S THE ONE WHO CALLS THE SIGNALS!

YOU'RE NEEDED HERE, CRYS! DON'T LET US DOWN!

THIS IS THE LAST TIME-- I WILL STAY BEHIND!

MINUTES LATER, ATOP THE LANDING-STRIP ROOF...

TRY NOT TO WORRY, DEAR! PERHAPS IT'S JUST A FALSE ALARM!

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT, REED?

THERE'S -- NO MORE TIME-- TO TALK! HERE COMES THE FANTASTI-CAR!

RRRRRRRRRRRR

SEE HOW HE'S LOOKING AT YOU-- WITH SUCH LOVING TRUST!

WE WON'T FAIL YOU, LITTLE FELLA! YOU DESERVE SOMETHING BETTER THAN-- WAR!

REED, DARLING-- WHEN WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO HAVE A PEACEFUL LIFE?

MAYBE NEVER, MY LOVE! BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE-- EACH OTHER!

IF YER THRU FANNIN' THE BREEZE NOW, STRETCHO---

LET'S GIT GOIN'!

HOW COME I NEVER GIT TA RIDE IN THE FRONT O'THIS TUB?

FIGURE IT OUT, BLUE EYES---

WE NEED YOU FOR BALLAST!

QUIT THE CLOWNING, YOU TWO!

THIS MAY WELL BE OUR MOST FATE-FUL MISSION!

RRRRRRRRRRR

WE'VE GOT TO REACH NAMOR--AND TO STOP HIM-- BEFORE HE CAN LAUNCH HIS ATTACK!

AND, EVEN AS REED RICHARDS SPEAKS---

NAMOR! I'VE SIGHTED SOMETHING ON THE RADAR-SCAN!

IT'S THE FANTASTI-CAR-- HEAD-ING THIS WAY!

NOW ARE YOU CONVINCED? NOW WILL YOU GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- APPROACHING MY DOMAIN?

IF YOU WAIT ANY LONGER-- IT COULD BE TOO LATE!

SILENCE, MAGNETO! I'LL HEAR NO MORE!

A PRINCE OF THE BLOOD IS NEVER PANICKED INTO ACTION!

NAMOR, DO NOT VEX ME! I TOO AM BORN TO RULE! I TOO AM A LEADER-- OF ALL THE MUTANTS ON EARTH!

AND I SAY-- ATTACK!

BUT CAN YOU NOT SEE? IT IS ONLY ONE SHIP!

KLAK!

NOW IS MY CHANCE-- WHILE HIS GAZE IS AVERTED!

I'LL USE MY OWN MAGNETIC POWER TO DO WHAT HE WILL NOT!

SHOOOM!

MY PRINCE! A MISSILE HAS BEEN TRIGGERED!

NO! IT MUST BE STOPPED!

NOBLE ATLANTIS WILL NEVER STRIKE FIRST!

LOOK! AHEAD... SOMETHIN' COMIN' AT US!

A MISSILE... FROM BELOW... FOLLOWED BY THE SUB-MARINER!

NAMOR MUST BE GUIDING IT!

THAT MEANS -- HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!

HOLD TIGHT! OUR BUILT-IN JAMMING RAY WILL MAKE IT DETONATE BEFORE IT REACHES US!

Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

WE DID IT!

BUT THE CONCUSSION CAUGHT NAMOR, TOO!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS *ONE* WAR THAT GOT *STOPPED* BEFORE IT GOT *STARTED!*

DON'T *COUNT* ON IT, BEN! MOST LIKELY HE'S ONLY *STUNNED!*

YEAH? WELL, I'LL MAKE SURE HE'S READY TA HOLLER *UNCLE* WHEN HE STARTS TO GIT *UNSTUNNED!*

BEN! NO--!

YOUR STRENGTH CAN'T MATCH *HIS*--UNDER THE *WATER!*

IT *WORKED!* THE DIE IS FINALLY *CAST!*

NOW TO *TAKE OVER* THE ENTIRE *FLAGSHIP!*

ALL THAT IS *NEEDED* IS ONE SIMPLE *MAGNETIC BLAST..*

-- TO PIN THE CREWS' *ARMOR* AGAINST THE STEEL *WALLS!*

AND SO, THE SHIP IS *MINE!*

NO *LONGER* WILL YOU SERVE THE WEAK-WILLED *SUB-MARINER!*

NOW IT IS *MAGNETO* WHO ISSUES THE *ORDERS!* IT IS *MAGNETO* WHO HOLDS *COMMAND!*

JUST AS IT IS *MAGNETO* AND HIS *MUTANTS* WHO WILL ONE DAY *RULE* THE *WORLD!*

AND, ON *THAT* CHILLING NOTE, WE ONCE AGAIN REJOIN ONE OF THE WORLD'S *LOVELIEST* YOUNG MOTHERS, AND HER PRECIOUS LITTLE CARGO ---

WE'RE READY TO *LAND* NOW, DEAR!

WHISPER HILL IS JUST AHEAD!

I'M GLAD THAT WE *REACHED* HERE BEFORE *NIGHTFALL!*

I DON'T KNOW *HOW* MISS HARKNESS CAN LIVE HERE *ALONE!*

EVEN THOUGH I'VE FACED SOME OF THE *DEADLIEST MENACES* IN THE WORLD---

I STILL GET THE *SHIVERS* EACH TIME THAT I COME *HERE!*

BUT, AT LEAST I KNOW THAT YOU'RE *SAFE* HERE, MY DARL-- *OH!*

WHAT'S THAT?

COME *IN,* MY DEAR! I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR YOU! *EBONY* SENSED YOUR ARRIVAL!

FORGIVE AN OLD LADY'S CAUTION WHILE OPENING THE DOOR!

I HAVE LEARNED NEVER TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!

THAT'S WHY WE CHOSE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF LITTLE FRANKLIN!

I AM QUITE FLATTERED, YOUNG LADY!

I-- CANNOT DELAY, MRS. HARKNESS! I HAVE TO-- JOIN MY HUSBAND!

YES, DEAR! I KNOW!

YOU-- KNOW?

SOME DAY, PERHAPS, WE SHALL TELL HER-- JUST HOW MUCH WE KNOW!

BUT NOT YET, DEAR BOY! NOT YET!

I FEEL-- I SHOULDN'T BE LEAVING HIM!

BUT, I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!

AT ANY RATE, HE'S SAFER DOWN THERE-- THAN ANYWHERE ELSE!

LATER, AS THE AERO-CAR'S DELICATE SENSOR-CIRCUITS ENABLE SUE TO HOME IN ON HER DESTINATION ---

WHAT A RARE STROKE OF LUCK!

I'VE FOUND MYSELF THE PERFECT HOSTAGE!

I'LL BRING HER TO ME WITH A SUDDEN MAGNETIC ATTACK!

AND THEN, EVEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL BE FORCED TO DO MY BIDDING!

SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING!* IT'S AS THOUGH-- THE SHIP'S GONE *MAD!*

EVERYTHING *METAL* IS FALLING APART-- *FLYING* AROUND IN THE *COCKPIT!*

I-- I CAN'T CONTROL THE *SHIP!* IT'S PLUMMETING *DOWN--!*

MY *INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD*-- I HAVE TO *USE* IT-- TO PROTECT ME FROM THE *CRASH!*

BUT-- THE SHIP IS *SLOW-ING DOWN!*

IT SEEMS TO BE *FLOATING*-- AS IF IT HAS A *WILL* OF ITS OWN!

12

THERE! I HAVE BROUGHT IT DOWN *SAFELY!*

NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS DRAW IT *CLOSER*-- AND *CLOSER*-- UNTIL--

SPLASH!

I *HAVE* HER!

THE NOW-HELPLESS WIFE OF *MR. FANTASTIC* HAS BECOME THE CAPTIVE OF-- *MAGNETO!*

KTCK!

13.

FIRST, THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* WILL BE FORCED TO DO MY BIDDING--

AND THEN, *SUB-MARINER* AS WELL!

-- FOR, I HAVE *ANOTHER* PLAN, WHICH WILL ALSO MAKE *HIM* UNABLE TO *DEFY* ME!

MEANWHILE---

REED! LOOK AT *THAT!*

A *WATERSPOUT*-- FOLLOWED BY EVER-WIDENING, CONCENTRIC *CIRCLES!*

IT CAN ONLY MEAN *ONE* THING--

IT'S *BEN'S* WAY OF GETTING AT *NAMOR!*

HE'S USING HIS MASSIVE *ARMS* TO CREATE A SPINNING *VORTEX*---

-- WHICH WILL DRAW EVERYTHING BENEATH THE SURFACE *TO* HIM--

LIKE THE CENTER OF A GIANT, MAN-MADE *WHIRLPOOL!*

WHAT NEW *MADNESS* IS THIS? A SUDDEN *SUCTION* DRAWS ME FORTH!

IT IS THE GROTESQUE *THING* WHO DARES INVADE MY REALM!

NOW HE'LL LEARN HOW *NAMOR* FIGHTS!

IT *WORKED!* I *SEE* 'IM NOW!

OKAY, BABY.. *COME* TO POPPA!

HEY! HOW'D HE *STOP* 'IMSELF SO FAST?

FOOL! BENEATH THE SEA *I* AM SUPREME!

MINE IS THE *STRENGTH*--THE *SPEED*-- THE *SKILL!*

WHILE THE *WATER PRESSURE* MAKES YOU *WEAK,* IT GIVES *ME STRENGTH!*

STRENGTH ENOUGH TO *HUMBLE* THE LUMBERING *THING!*

WHERE'D HE *GO?* WHAT *HAPPENED* TO 'IM?

-- JUST AS I SHALL HUMBLE-- THE ENTIRE *HUMAN RACE!*

WATER IS MY *ELEMENT!* IT NURTURES ME-- *PROTECTS* ME-- AND, MOST OF ALL---

IT GIVES ME BOUNDLESS *POWER!*

THE FISH-FACED *CREEP* IS TRYIN' TO-- *UNHH!*

I *LEAVE* HIM TO THE WILL OF *FATE!*

HIS LUNGS ARE *STRONGER* THAN A NORMAL MAN'S---

PERHAPS THEY WILL *SUSTAIN* HIM TILL HE *WAKES!*

AS FOR *ME,* I MUST LOCATE THE *OTHERS* WHO-- BUT *WAIT!!*

MY *FLAGSHIP!* IT IS *GONE!*

THERE HE IS! I'LL *GET* HIM NOW!

A *FLAME BURST..* FROM *ABOVE!*

..TURNING THE *SEA* TO FIERY *STEAM!*

SHOOSH!

FLYING *AWAY* WON'T SAVE YOU *NOW*, FISH MAN!

OUT OF THE *WATER*, YOU'RE IN *MY* PLAY-GROUND!

BEN! WHERE *IS* HE? WHY DOESN'T HE *SURFACE*?

YOU ARE *RIGHT*, STRIPLING--

THE *AIR* IS NOT FOR *ME!*

FEZZAK!

I *FOUND* HIM!

NOW-- IF I CAN GET HIM *UP* IN TIME!

HEY! WHAT THE--?

WHO'S THE WISE-GUY? *WHO'S THE WISE-GUY?*

BEN, OLD FRIEND-- YOU'RE *ALL RIGHT!*

THE HECK I *AM!*

I SWALLERED A SNOOT-FULL O' *GUPPIES!*

HEY-- *HEADS UP*, YOU GUYS--

NAMOR'S *GETTING AWAY!*

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, STRETCHO! *DO* SOMETHIN'! IF THAT WATER-LOGGED WEASEL THINKS HE-- ***HEY!***

HOLD IT! WAIT! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YA--??!!

HANG LOOSE, PARTNER! WE'VE GOT TO ***BEAT HIM*** TO THE SHIP!

THE HATCH! CLOSE THE HATCH!

IN THE NAME OF ***ATLANTIS,*** THEY MUST NOT.. ***UMMPPHH!***

TOO LATE! THE ACCURSED ***TORCH*** IS UPON US!

SSSST!

AN' HE AIN'T ***ALL*** YOU GOTTA ***WORRY*** ABOUT, FLATHEAD!

NOBODY'S CLOSIN' THAT CRUMMY LID ***NOW!***

KRUNCH!

CAREFUL, BEN! HE'S ***FASTER*** THAN YOU THINK!

HIM? GIT PAST ***ME?***

HE MUSTN'T ***ESCAPE*** US!

HAW-- ***THAT'LL*** BE THE DAY!

FOOL! I CAN ***ELUDE*** YOU WITH THE EASE OF.. ***MMPFF!***

NOW, BEN.. ***GRAB*** HIM!

YER *OUTTA* THE WATER NOW, PAL -- SO *WE'RE* ON TOP AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, NAMOR-- *TALK!*

WHAT ARE YOU *AFTER?* WHY DID YOU START YOUR *INVASION?*

YOU *LIE* IN YOUR TEETH! IT WAS *YOU* WHO LAUNCHED THE ATTACK!

I SHOULD HAVE *STRUCK YOU DOWN* -- AS MAGNETO *URGED!*

MAGNETO?!!

WHERE'D *HE* COME FROM?

SIRE! ON THE *VIEW-SCREEN* INSIDE -- *MAGNETO* HAS SEIZED THE *FLAG-SHIP ROYAL!*

HE THREATENS BOTH *YOU* -- AND THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

HE DARES TO *REBEL* -- AGAINST *ME?*

MAGNETO -- THREATENING *US? HOW?*

RELEASE ME, AIR-BREATHERS!

I GUESS WE MIGHT AS *WELL!*

IT SEEMS THAT WE *BOTH* HAVE A *COMMON FOE!*

HEY! HOW IN THE NAME'A *AUNT PETUNIA* DID *THAT* HAPPEN?

IT *IS* MAGNETO! AND -- HE'S MADE A *PRISONER* OF -- MY *WIFE!*

GREETINGS, DEFEATED ONES! *THIS* IS WHY *NONE* OF YOU WILL LIFT A FINGER *AGAINST* ME!

LADY DORMA! SHE *TOO* HAS BEEN TAKEN *HOSTAGE!*

WOW! WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?*

IF ONE SINGLE *HAIR* OF MY LADY'S HEAD SHOULD BE *HARMED*--

HOLD IT, NAMOR! *THREATS* WON'T HELP US *NOW!*

DORMA IS TRYING TO *TELL* US SOMETHING--!

FORGIVE ME, MY LORD! I WAS *LURED* INTO YOUR FLAGSHIP-- THINKING *YOU* WERE THERE!

BUT, I *BEG* YOU-- FEAR *NOT* FOR MY SAFETY--

YOU MUST DO-- WHAT MUST BE *DONE!*

I *WARN* YOU, MAGNETO-- IF YOU THINK TO DEFY THE POWER OF *ATLANTIS*--

YEAH! 'N HOW ABOUT THE COCKAMAMIE *FANTASTIC FOUR*?!!

YOU DO NOT *IMPRESS* ME! THE TRUMP CARDS ARE *MINE!*

HE'S *RIGHT!* *HE'S* GOT ALL THE *ACES!*

YOU *KNOW* THAT YOU MUST *SERVE* ME, WHILE I HOLD THE ONES YOU *LOVE!*

NUTS! LET'EM KEEP *YAKKIN'*-- MEANTIME I'LL TAKE ATLANTIS *APART* TILL I *FIND* ME THAT PUNK!

YOU *CAN'T*, BIG BUDDY!

THERE'S TOO MUCH AT *STAKE!*

HUMAN LIFE MEANS *NOTHING* TO MAGNETO!

WITH *SUE* AND *DORMA* MAGNETO'S *PRISONERS*-- THE DECISION MUST BE-- *THEIRS!*

NEXT

THE DREAD DECISION!

FANTASTIC FOUR

15¢ CC 104 NOV

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

ATTACK ME AND THOSE YOU LOVE MOST WILL *DIE!*

TM

NOTHING MUST STOP US!

WE HAVE *NO* CHOICE--

THE *HUMAN* RACE IS AT STAKE!

THE CONQUEROR SAYS *DIE!*

THE F.F.--AND ALL MANKIND--FACE DEADLY DISASTER, WITH--

OUR WORLD--UNGLAMPED!

MAGNETO IS LEADING THE FLEET OF ATLANTIS DIRECTLY INTO NEW YORK HARBOR--AND WE DARE NOT STOP HIM!

--NOT WHILE MY WIFE AND NAMOR'S PRINCESS ARE HIS CAPTIVES!

DESPITE OUR POWER-- DESPITE OUR RAGE-- WE ARE HELPLESS! HELPLESS!

IT AINT POSSIBLE!

EVEN WITH FISH-HEAD'S TROOPS BACKIN' 'IM UP, HOW CAN MAGNETO KNOCK OUT OUR WHOLE BLAMED ARMY?

IT'S HIS MAGNETIC POWER, BEN! THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING IT CAN'T DO!

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT, FRANTIC ONE! THIS IS IT-- THE FINAL CHAPTER!

SCRIPT: STAN LEE
ART: JOHN ROMITA
AND JOHN VERPOORTEN
LETTERER: ARTIE SIMEK

SEE HOW MAGNETO *AMPLIFIES* HIS OWN MAGNETIC ENERGY!

HE *EXTENDS* ITS RANGE THRU USE OF MY OWN FLEET'S *DYNAMOS!*

SO *THAT'S* WHY HE'S CLOBBERIN' ALL OUR *HARDWARE!*

THERE--ON THE GROUND BELOW--

SEE HOW HIS MAGNETIC IMPULSES *NEUTRALIZE* YOUR JET ENGINES-- *GROUNDING* EVERY PLANE!

--JUST AS HE MAKES YOUR *WARSHIPS* FLOAT AIMLESSLY-- OUT OF *CONTROL!*

--WHILE HE *MAGNETIZES* YOUR ROCKETS' *WARHEADS*--

CAUSING THEM TO *DETONATE*-- TOO SOON!

HE EVEN DIVERTS YOUR MIGHTIEST *MISSILES* TO THE UPPER *ATMOSPHERE*--

--WHILE WE WATCH *HELPLESSLY*-- LIKE *WEAKLINGS*-- BELOW!

BUT *I* AM NO WEAKLING! *I* AM NOT HELPLESS! I AM *NAMOR*--THE *SUB-MARINER!*

REED! HE--HE'S GONNA RUN *AMOK!*

HOLD IT, MAN! COME *BACK* HERE! *WAIT*, I SAY!

NAMOR WAITS FOR *NO* MAN!

YOU'LL WAIT FOR *ME*, MISTER!

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN--*DORMA* IS A PRISONER?

DORMA! --OF *COURSE!*

IN MY BLIND *FURY*--I *HAD* FORGOTTEN!

HE CAN'T BE *TRUSTED*, STRETCH!

JUST LEMME *LEAN* ON 'IM--ONCE 'N FOR *ALL!*

STAY *BACK*, BEN! THIS IS NO TIME TO *FIGHT* AMONG OURSELVES!

MAGNETO'S THE COMMON ENEMY! *HE'S* THE ONE WE'VE GOTTA *BEAT!*

JOHNNY'S *RIGHT!* IT WAS *MAGNETO* WHO SET US *AGAINST* EACH OTHER--*MAGNETO* WHO CAUSED THIS WAR TO *START!*

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* WAY TO DEFEAT HIM! *YOU'RE* THE KEY, NAMOR! *RETURN* TO HIM--PRETEND TO BECOME HIS *ALLY!*

THE *LORD OF ATLANTIS* SERVE *MAGNETO?*

NEVER!

YOU *MUST!* AND THEN, WHEN WE'RE FINALLY READY TO *STRIKE*--YOU'LL HAVE THE *INSIDE TRACK!* THERE'S NO OTHER *WAY!*

I WILL *DO* IT! BUT ONLY BECAUSE I THIRST FOR *ACTION!*

TAKE *WARNING*, RICHARDS! I WILL NOT WAIT--*TOO LONG!*

MEANWHILE, ON THE MAIN DECK OF THE ATTACK FLEET'S **FLAGSHIP**--

THE **SUB-MARINER** APPROACHES--ALONE AND UNARMED!

I **KNEW** IT! HE HAS ELECTED TO RETURN--AND **SERVE** MAGNETO!

JUST AS ALL **MANKIND** SHALL ONE DAY SERVE THE **MONARCH OF MUTANTS!**

MAGNETO! THE HUMANS HATE **ME** AS MUCH AS THEY DO **YOU!**

OF **COURSE!** YOUR PLACE IS **HERE**-- **FIGHTING** THEM, WITH **ME!**

GET TO ONE OF THE **BATTLE CRUISERS**--TAKE COMMAND-- AND LEAD THE **ATTACK**--IN THE NAME OF **MAGNETO!**

AND **I** HAVE ONE ORDER FOR **YOU**--

SEE THAT YOUR FEMALE **PRISONERS** COME TO **NO HARM!**

FOR, IF THEY **DO**--NO PLACE ON **EARTH** WILL HIDE YOU FROM NAMOR'S **VENGEANCE!**

HAH! LITTLE DID HE DREAM HOW **CLOSE** HE WAS TO THOSE HE WOULD **PROTECT!**

AND LITTLE DOES HE KNOW HOW **LIGHTLY** MAGNETO TAKES HIS EMPTY **THREATS!**

YOU ARE AWAKE, DORMA--WHILE THE WIFE OF RICHARDS HAS YET TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS!

BUT, IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE--FOR NEITHER YOU--NOR ANY HUMANS--WILL EVER KNOW FREEDOM AGAIN!

BUT EVERY TYRANT HAS THOSE WHO WILL FIGHT--TO THE DEATH! AND SO IT IS WITH MAGNETO--

THE BAXTER BUILDING AT LAST!

I NEVER FIGGERED WE'D MAKE IT BACK WITH OUR TAILS BETWEEN OUR LEGS, LIKE THIS!

TAKE IT EASY, BEN! WE'RE NOT BEATEN--NOT BY A LONG SHOT!

BUT WE'VE STRATEGY TO PLAN--AND EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

CRYS! I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU--

NO NEED TO, JOHNNY! I FOLLOWED IT ALL--ON THE SCANNER!

EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS KINDA GRIM--REED HAS A PLAN--

WITH EARTH'S WEAPONS USELESS AGAINST MAGNETO--AND NAMOR'S FORCES SERVING HIM--

I HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR PLANS!

NUTS! IT'S ALL BIG BRAIN'S FAULT!

YOU SHOULD'A LET ME FLATTEN THAT CREEP WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!

YOU NEVER HAD THE CHANCE, OLD FRIEND! BUT TRUST ME--AND THAT CHANCE WILL COME!

DON'T LOOK LIKE I GOT MUCH CHOICE, STRETCH!

JOHNNY! GET TO THE VIEW-SCREEN! I WANT TO CONTACT THE WHITE HOUSE!

BEN--CHECK ALL SECURITY SYSTEMS! ON THE DOUBLE, MAN!

AND, CRYS--CALL AGATHA HARKNESS! I WANT TO KNOW MY SON IS SAFE!

MOVE--ALL OF YOU! WE'RE NOT PLAYING GAMES!

REED! OVER HERE! I'VE REACHED THE CAPITOL!

RICHARDS--YOU'VE FAILED ME--AND YOUR NATION!

YOU SAID THAT YOU COULD STOP NAMOR!*

*HE SAID IT LAST ISH, REMEMBER?--STAN.

MR. PRESIDENT! I'VE LEARNED THAT THE ENEMY ISN'T THE SUB-MARINER!

IT'S SOMEONE FAR DEADLIER--FAR MORE MERCILESS! IT'S THE MUTANT KNOWN AS-- MAGNETO!

HE'S THE ONE WE HAVE TO STOP!

I'M NO LONGER IMPRESSED BY YOUR RHETORIC!

THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR AMAHRICA!

OUR LARGEST CITY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INVADED BY THE LEGIONS OF ATLANTIS!

AND YOU TELL ME THAT NAMOR IS NOT THE ENEMY!

OUR OWN *CITIZENS* ARE HERDED LIKE *CATTLE* BY A BRUTAL, ALIEN FORCE--

AND WE ARE HELPLESS TO *RETALIATE* WITHOUT *INJURING* THE VERY ONES WE ARE TRYING TO *SAVE!*

PERSCRIPTIONS

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE *LISTENED* TO YOU!

--*DESPITE* WHAT TRICIA SAID!

I CAN *UNDER-STAND* YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT, SIR! AND--I'LL *ADMIT* IT'S WELL-FOUNDED!

BUT--THERE *STILL* IS HOPE! THERE *STILL* IS--A *CHANCE!*

ALL I ASK IS--DON'T PASS JUDGEMENT ON THE *SUB-MARINER*-- TOO SOON!

MY PARTNERS AND I-- HAVE A *PLAN!*

THE TIME HAS COME TO *LOWER* OUR VOICES!

MEANTIME, RICHARDS-- I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER *ONE* THING--

WE'VE NEVER LOST A WAR *BEFORE*--AND I DON'T INTEND TO LOSE ONE *NOW!*

WHY WORRY? THERE'S *LOTSA* WARS! YA LOSE *ONE* --YA FIND *ANOTHER!*

QUIET, BEN! THERE'S NO TIME FOR *CLOWN-ING!*

JOHNNY--TAKE TO THE *AIR!* SEE IF YOU CAN FIND *SUB-MARINER!*

WILL DO, REED!

FLAME ON!

BEHOLD! THE HUMAN TORCH!

DESTROY HIM!

THE TORCH?

NO, YOU FOOL! DO NOT FIRE THAT-- NO!

BUT, SIRE-- IS HE NOT OUR FOE?

VROOM

WOW! THEY'RE AS TRIGGER-HAPPY AS EVER!

LUCKY FOR ME SOMETHING SPOILED THEIR AIM!

SOMEONE'S CALLING! HEY--IT'S NAMOR!

WAIT! I WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU!

HIS NUTTY LITTLE ANKLE WINGS SURE DO THEIR THING!

WHAT'S UP, FISH-FACE? WANNA BORROW A TOWEL?

YOUR JUVENILE INSOLENCE BORES ME! I HAVE NEWS --FOR RICHARDS!

OKAY, NAMOR-- SPILL IT!

MAGNETO INTENDS TO MAKE NEW YORK HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS!

HE IS LANDING THERE RIGHT NOW--TO PROCLAIM HIMSELF OVERLORD OF EARTH!

THEN--OUR TIME HAS ABOUT RUN OUT! IF WE'RE GONNA STOP HIM--IT'S GOTTA BE NOW--OR NEVER!

WHAT OF EARTH'S MIGHTY WEAPONS? WHY ARE THEY NOT THROWN AGAINST MAGNETO?

IMPOSSIBLE! HIS FORCES ARE IN THE HEART OF OUR OWN CITIES! WE CAN'T RAIN DEATH UPON OUR OWN PEOPLE!

BUT DON'T WORRY --REED'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE! LOOK!

WOW! I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO HQ-- FAST!

MAGNETO IS TAKING OVER!

TORCH! TELL RICHARDS IF HE DOESN'T MOVE SOON, I WILL ACT ALONE!

ALL HAIL MAGNETO!

ALL HAIL THE OVERLORD OF EARTH!

AHH! THE GOLDEN-HAIRED ONE HAS FINALLY RECOVERED!

DO YOU HEAR THOSE CHEERS? THEY ARE FOR ME! THEY ARE FOR YOUR MASTER--FOR THE MASTER OF ALL MAN-KIND!

YOU WILL NEVER BE OUR MASTER!

NOT YOU, WHO KEEPS US TIED-- LIKE A COWARD!

YOU CALL ME *COWARD*?!!

I--WHO CAN FREE YOU WITH A *GESTURE*!

I--WHO AM *MIGHTIER* THAN ALL THE ARMED FORCES OF *EARTH*!

LAST!

AT *LAST*!

YOU GOADED ME ON *PURPOSE*-- TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TURN *INVISIBLE*!

RUN, SUE-- *RUN*!

RUN? THERE IS *NO PLACE* TO RUN!

--NOT WHILE *I* HOLD THE POWER OF-- *MAGNETISM*!

SEE HOW *EFFORTLESSLY* I CAUSE EVERY LOOSE BIT OF *METAL* TO FLY THRU THE CABIN--

--FLOATING ABOUT, HITHER AND YON, *UNTIL*--

--FINALLY TOUCHING YOUR *BODY*--AS THEY EVENTUALLY *MUST*--THEY SERVE TO *EXPOSE* YOU AS CLEARLY AS IF YOU WERE *VISIBLE*!

SO! YOU NOW SEEK TO *THWART* ME BY ENCASING YOURSELF WITHIN YOUR INVISIBLE *FORCE FIELD!*

BUT *AGAIN* YOU ARE DOOMED TO *DEFEAT!*

ALL I NEED SAY IS--*SURRENDER,* SUE RICHARDS!

FOR, IF YOU DO *NOT*-- *LADY DORMA* SHALL *DIE!*

NO! *NO!*

THE FORCE FIELD HAS *FADED!* I'VE *TRIUMPHED* AGAIN!

I--I COULDN'T LET HIM *KILL* YOU!

BUT NOW-- WE *BOTH* ARE LOST!

NO! HE'LL *NEVER* DARE HARM US-- NOT WHILE THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* STILL LIVE!

OR WHILE *NAMOR* CAN STILL STRIKE BACK!

HAH! COME --I'LL SHOW YOU HOW *WRONG* YOU ARE!

SEE! THE MIGHTIEST CITY ON *EARTH* SPRAWLS HELPLESSLY BEFORE ME!

MY LEGIONS ARE *EVERY-WHERE!*

AND *NONE* CAN ATTACK ME-- WITHOUT *SLAYING* THE VERY ONES THEY SEEK TO *SAVE!*

SO LET IT BE *KNOWN*-- BY ALL WHO *LIVE*--BY ALL WHO *BREATHE*--

MAGNETO REIGNS SUPREME! *THE WORLD IS MINE!*

SECONDS LATER--

HE'S PLACED US IN LIFE-SIZED *CYLINDERS*-- AS IF TO *FLAUNT* OUR HELPLESS-NESS!

NOW ALL IS IN *READI-NESS!*

THEREFORE, LET THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* AND THE *LORD OF ATLANTIS* COME FORTH--TO PLEDGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THEIR MONARCH-- *MAGNETO!*

I SEE MY BELOVED *NOW*--DESCENDING FROM THE SKY ABOVE!

ALAS, WITH ALL HIS *POWER*-- ALL HIS *MAJESTY* --THERE IS *NOTHING* HE CAN DO!

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WHAT?!! YOU DARE CONFINE MY *LADY*-- LIKE A LIVING, CAPTIVE *PET?!!*

ONLY UNTIL YOU SWEAR *ALLEGIANCE*, SUB-MARINER! --BOTH *YOU*, AND THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

WHERE *ARE* THEY? WHY ARE THEY NOT *HERE*--TO DO ME *HOMAGE?*

THEY ARE NO CONCERN OF MINE! I PLEDGED I WOULD NOT *ATTACK* YOU UNTIL THEY *APPEARED*--

BUT *KNOW YOU*, MAGNETO --THE TIME GROWS *SHORT*-- AND MY *PATIENCE* YET *SHORTER!*

IF THOSE CYLINDERS ARE NOT *OPENED*--!!

TIME ENOUGH FOR *THAT*, MY HOT-TEMPERED AMPHIBIAN!

FIRST, *REED RICHARDS* MUST BE TAUGHT THE TERRIBLE *FOLLY* OF TRIFLING WITH *MAGNETO!*

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TO THE BAXTER BUILDING!! SEIZE THEM!

AND, IF THE FANTASTIC FOUR *RESIST*--THEY MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

MR. RICHARDS! THEY'RE *COMING*--JUST AS YOU *PREDICTED!*

IT'S TOO SOON! *TOO SOON!*

I MUST HAVE MORE *TIME!*

ELEVATOR

LOBBY

ROOF

JOHNNY! TAKE TO THE *ROOF!*

CRYSTAL! STAY AT THE *MONITOR!* COORDINATE ALL *MOVEMENTS!*

BEN--GET TO THE *ELEVATOR --QUICK!*

YOU'VE GOT TO GAIN ME *TIME!*

WHY DON'TCHA BUY A BLASTED *WATCH*--LIKE ANYONE *ELSE?*

SHEESH! THE WHOLE *WORLD'S* GONE BANANAS

AN ATTACKIN' *ARMY*--COMIN' UP BY *ELEVATOR!*

IF THE BLASTED THING WUZ *OUTTA ORDER*, THEY'D PROBABLY CALL OFF THE *WAR!*

WELL, AINT NO SENSE JUST *WAITIN'* FER 'EM--!

SKRUNCH

I CAN GIT 'EM *UP* HERE A HECKUVA LOT *FASTER* THAN THESE CRUMMY *CABLES* CAN!

IT'S LIKE PLAYIN' WITH A OVERSIZED *YO-YO*, 'CEPTIN' IT DON'T--*HEY!*

WHOZAT PLAYIN' *PEEKABOO* UNDER THERE?

UH OH! HE GOT 'IMSELF A *BLASTER!*

IT DON'T LOOK LIKE NO ORDINARY *POP-GUN!* I BETTER--

UNHH!

ZO

FIRE! BEFORE HE GETS *AWAY!* GOOD! *GOOD!*

NOT EVEN THE *THING'S* BESTIAL STRENGTH CAN STAND UP TO THE MOST POTENT *STUN GUN* IN ALL ATLANTIS!

AND NOW FOR THE *OTHERS!*

MR. RICHARDS! THE HALLWAY MONITOR SHOWS BEN GRIMM HAS *FALLEN!*

THE INVADERS ARE IN THE *CORRIDOR!*

STAND BACK, GIRL! I'VE GOT TO *STOP* THEM FROM COMING *CLOSER!*

SWOK!

I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE *LAB* NOW! I'M JUST *MINUTES* AWAY FROM COMPLETING MY *WORK!*

CRYSTAL! YOUR *ELEMENTAL POWER*--CAN IT *HOLD* THEM LONG ENOUGH?

I WILL NOT *FAIL* YOU!

ELEVATOR

A *STORM*-- INSIDE THE *BUILDING!* BUT--*HOW?*

CAN'T *STAND!* CAN'T EVEN-- HOLD OUR *GUNS!*

REED AND THE OTHERS CAN HANDLE THOSE *BELOW*--

BUT I MUSTN'T LET ANY *REINFORCEMENTS* LAND!

I'VE GOT TO DRAW THEIR *FIRE!*

SHAPP!

OKAY, FELLAS-- FOLLOW *ME!*

THANKS, GUYS! I WAS *HOPING* YOU'D DO THAT!

NOW--A TUNNEL OF *HEAT* WILL MAKE THEIR CONTROLS GO *HAYWIRE!*

IT *WORKED!* THEY'RE FORCED TO *LAND*-- ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!

SO I'LL HEAD BACK TO HQ-- LIKE *NOW!*

ALL CLEAR OUTSIDE! BUT--WHERE'S REED?

HE'S STILL IN HIS LAB--BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHY!

HE'S TOO SMART TA GIT 'IMSELF BLASTED--LIKE I DID!

IT'S FINISHED--AT LAST!

BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR TESTING! IT HAS TO WORK--OR EARTH WILL BECOME A BLOOD-BATH!

HEY! HOW CAN A LITTLE GIZMO LIKE THIS PUT THE KIBOSH ON MAGNETO?

YA MIGHT AS WELL USE YER DICK TRACY WRIST GUN!

STOW IT, BEN! HEAD FOR THE ROOF!

JOHNNY'S WARMING UP THE FANTASTI-CAR!

WHAT?!! THE FANTASTIC FOUR DARED TO RESIST YOU!

BUNGLING FOOLS! I WILL DEAL WITH THEM MYSELF!

AND YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR CHANCE! LOOK!

HOLD YOUR FIRE! MY MAGNETIC POWER WILL STOP THEM FROM CRASHING INTO US!

WE'VE NO INTENTION OF CRASHING, MAGNETO!

NOT TILL AFTER WE'VE PULLED YOUR CLAWS!

EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON THAT LITTLE DEVICE HE BUILT! BUT, IF IT DOES NOT WORK--

DON'T EVEN SAY IT, CRYS! REED'S NEVER FAILED US YET!

MAGNETO! THEY CARRY SOME SORT OF *WEAPON!*

HOLD YOUR FIRE! HAVE I NOT DEMONSTRATED THAT *NO* WEAPON CAN HARM ME?

LET THE DOOMED ONES DRAW *NEAR!*

THE TIME IS *COME!*

HEAR ME, WARRIORS OF *ATLANTIS!* ONLY *NAMOR* COMMANDS YOU ONCE MORE! SO ALL STAND *BACK!* HOLD YOUR FIRE TILL *MY* COMMAND!

OKAY, CRYS! THAT'S YOUR *CUE!*

BY MY *ELEMENTAL POWER--* LET THE SKIES GROW *DARK--* LET THE *LIGHTNING* FLASH--

PERFECT! THAT GAVE ME THE SPLIT-SECOND I *NEEDED!*

NOW MAGNETO-- DO YOUR *WORST!*

RICHARDS, YOU ARE *MAD!* ONE MAGNETIC BLAST WILL *DESTROY* YOU--*AND* YOUR WEAPON!

THINK *AGAIN,* MAGNETO!

THIS IS NO *ORDINARY* WEAPON--BUT AN ELECTRONIC *CONVERTER!*

THE MORE *ENERGY* YOU EMIT--THE MORE IT *CONVERTS* IT--*AGAINST* YOU!

IT ACTS LIKE A LIVING *MIRROR*-- IT REFLECTS YOUR POWER *BACK* AT YOU--*IMPRISONING* YOU WITHIN A CONE OF YOUR *OWN MAKING!*

FREE THE CAPTIVES! HE CANNOT *STOP* YOU NOW!

THE *MORE* MAGNETIC FORCE I HURL --THE MORE I *TRAP* MYSELF WITHIN THIS *CONE!*

IT'S *OVER*, BEN! WE'VE *WON!*

AND YET, I CANNOT *STOP!* IT IS MY *ONLY* POWER-- MY *ONLY* STRENGTH!

WARRIORS! YOU HAVE CONDUCTED YOURSELVES WITH *HONOR!* BUT NOW--THE INVASION IS *ENDED!*

GATHER YOUR *ARMS!* TAKE TO YOUR *SHIPS!* WE RETURN TO *ATLANTIS!*

WELL, LET'S HOPE THIS ERASED THE *CREDIBILITY GAP* BETWEEN *WASHINGTON* AND THE *FF!*

MY DARLING--YOU *DID* IT! YOU *DEFEATED* MAGNETO-- WITHOUT A SINGLE *CASUALTY!*

I WANT TO *THANK* YOU, NAMOR--FOR *TRUSTING* IN US--FOR GAINING US *TIME!*

THE *SUB-MARINER* DOES NOT DESIRE YOUR *GRATITUDE!*

BUT, CAN WE *NEVER* BE FRIENDS?

NEVER--SO LONG AS YOU AIR-BREATHERS *HATE* AND DISTRUST ALL WHO ARE *DIFFERENT!*

I *LEAVE* YOU TO YOUR WORLD OF *STRIFE* AND NEVER-END-ING *WAR!*

HOW ABOUT *THAT?* HIM--ONE'A THE WORLD'S BEST *SCRAPPERS*--CRITICIZIN' *US* 'CAUSE WE'RE WAR-LIKE!

AND YET--THERE WAS *TRUTH* TO HIS WORDS! WE *ARE* HOSTILE TO THOSE WHO *DIFFER* FROM US!

WE, WHO HAVE REACHED THE *MOON,* HAVE YET TO FIND *BROTHERHOOD*--HERE ON EARTH!

HEY--WHAT ABOUT *THIS* CREEP? HOW DO I *GIT* TO 'IM SO'S I CAN *CLOBBER* 'IM A LITTLE?

THE CONE WILL *REMAIN,* UNTIL THE *MILITIA* ARRIVES!

THEN THAT WRAPS IT UP! THE JOB'S *FINISHED!*

I'M AFRAID *NOT,* BEN! OUR JOB WILL *NEVER* BE FINISHED--

--NOT TILL THIS TRAGIC *BATTLE-GROUND EARTH* FINALLY KNOWS *PEACE*--

NOT TILL EACH MAN CALLS HIS FELLOW MAN --*BROTHER!*

NEXT *MONSTER IN THE STREETS!*

FANTASTIC FOUR #108: KIRBY'S WAY
BY JOHN MORROW

Fantastic Four #108 has quite a history behind it. It was originally meant to be #102, but Stan Lee apparently felt that Jack Kirby's story, as submitted, wasn't dialogueable. So Stan ran the story intended for *FF* #103 (which Kirby turned in along with his resignation from Marvel in 1969) in #102, and put the rejected art on the shelf for a few months. The Bullpen eventually chopped Kirby's originals up, rearranged panels, had John Buscema add some filler art, changed the ending, sent the whole thing to Joe Sinnott to ink, and published it (not so coincidentally) the same month Kirby's *New Gods* #1 came out at DC Comics. The end result was a real mess that, quite frankly, didn't make much sense.

But just how bad was Kirby's original story? Judge for yourself. Presented here is my attempt to put the story back into its original form, using the Kirby art that didn't make the cut. Comic art dealer Mitch Itkowitz came across many of the discarded pencils in the Marvel files a few years ago, and had them returned to Jack. A few panels are still missing, and you'll see those indicated by question marks. Since Kirby's original story and the published version had major differences, I deleted the published dialogue and page numbers to avoid confusion. In quotes (" ") accompanying the pencil panels are Jack's original margin notes for Stan Lee to dialogue by (these are numbered to coincide with the panel numbers). With just the few margin notes here to accompany Kirby's powerful art, it's easy enough to get an idea of the story he set out to tell originally.

Some of the later pages were renumbered more than once during the alterations, making reassembly a difficult task (apparently, the hatchet job went through several revisions). One thing that helped immensely in reassembling this story was the fact that Kirby worked on a grid. By simply following his standard *FF* grid from this period, you can usually tell if panels were falling in the right place on a given page.

There were some major differences in the two versions. Just what is going on in the introduction on page 2 is unclear, and maybe this confusion at the opening of the story is the reason Stan decided it was unusable. Unlike the published version of this story, Kirby's version dealt with a force called Mega-Power, not Nega-Power, and had nothing to do with the Negative Zone. And the villain Janus didn't die in the end (a plot twist that I always thought seemed very un-Kirbylike).

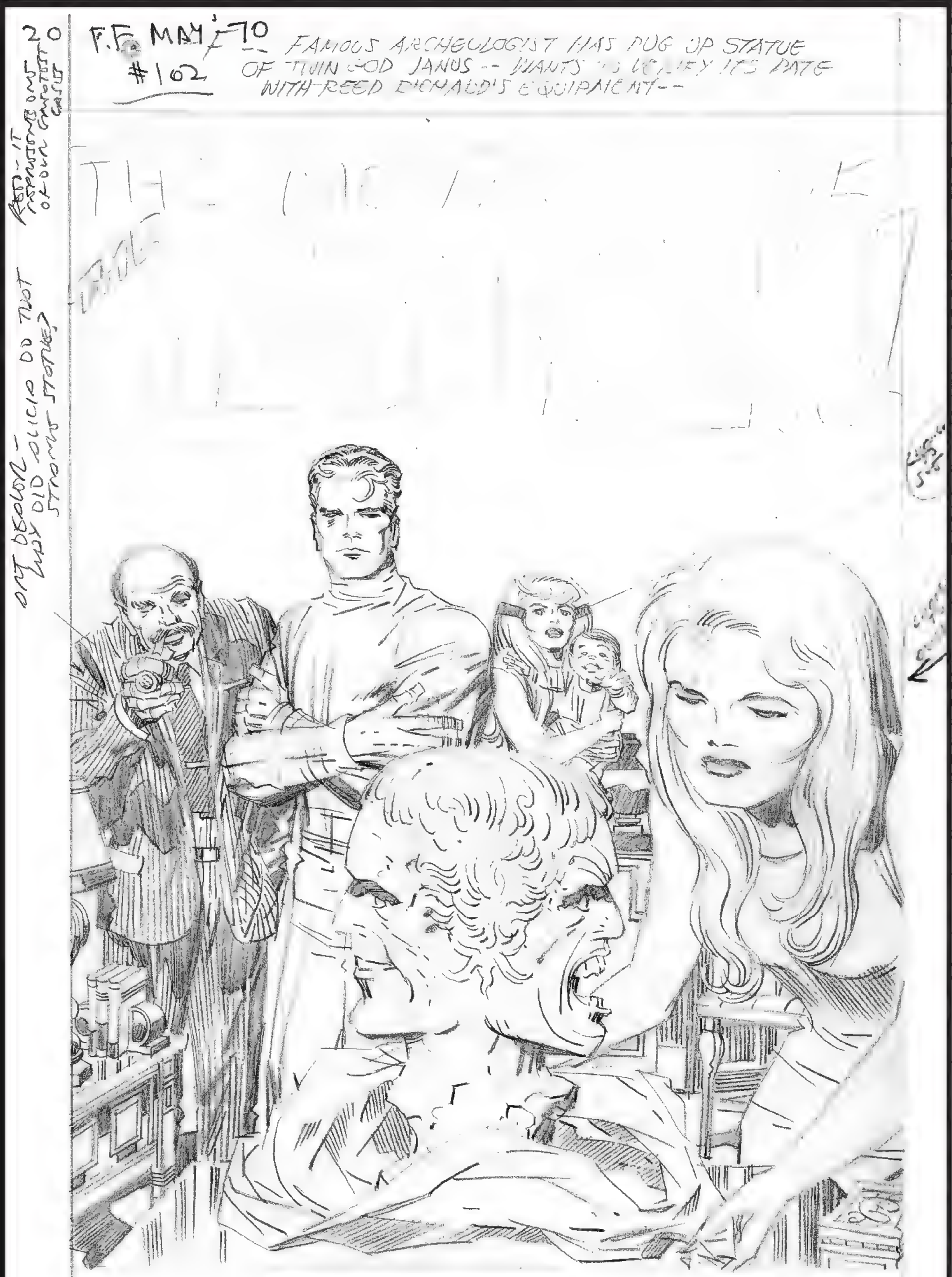
This story didn't break any new ground, but there are some really nice bits that got left on the Bullpen floor; those simple, down-to-earth touches like Reed and Sue's casual clothes on page 2 and the Thing's sweater on page 8, and Sue taking baby Franklin from Crystal on page 2. These seemingly minor details make the FF seem like real people, and were a big part of the sense of family fans felt reading the comics of the Lee/Kirby era. The very lack of this type of storytelling detail is one of the reasons the FF has never reached the heights it attained while Kirby was on it.

But rather than dwell on the negative, let's celebrate the end of the classic Lee/Kirby run on *Fantastic Four* by enjoying this look at one of Jack's final efforts on the FF, as he originally intended it to be seen.

John Morrow is editor and publisher of The Jack Kirby Collector, *a quarterly magazine about Kirby's life and career that is currently in its 12th year of publication. His company, TwoMorrows Publishing, launched in 1994 and is the industry's leading publisher of books and magazines about comics artists and comics history. Find out more at www.twomorrows.com*

Page 1

1. *"Famous archaeologist has dug up statue of the twin gods Janus--wants to verify it's date with Reed Richard's equipment--"* **2. Stan Lee border note:** *"Art Dealer- Why did Alicia do that strange statue?"* **3. Stan Lee border note:** *"Reed- It represents one of our greatest cases."* **4.** *"One face of the statue is calm--wholesome. Other face is evil--savage."* **5.** *"Why should statue have been unearthed at this particular time?"* Editorial notes pointing to Crystal and Sue request for their positions to be swapped.

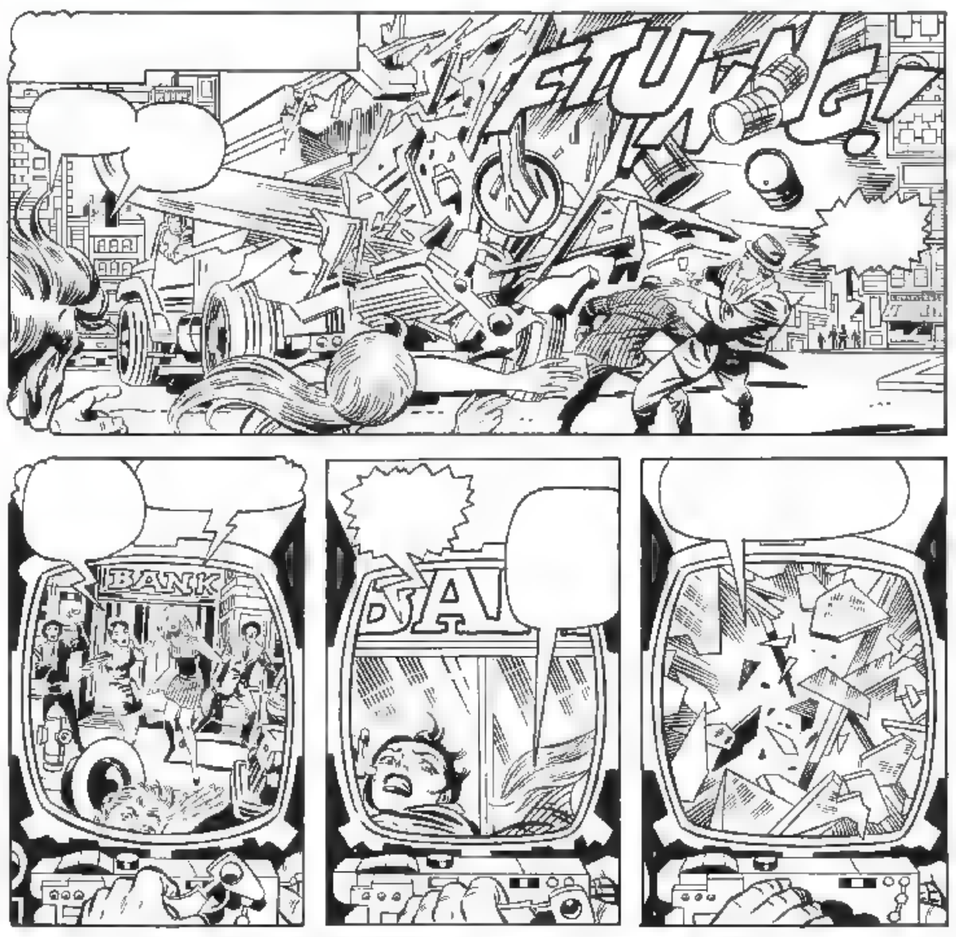

F.F. MAY '70
#102
FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGIST HAS DUG UP STATUE OF TWIN GOD JANUS -- WANTS TO VERIFY ITS DATE WITH REED RICHARDS EQUIPMENT--
ONE FACE OF STATUE IS CALM-- WHOLESOME
OTHER FACE IS EVIL--SAVAGE
WHY SHOULD STATUS HAVE BEEN UNEARTHED AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME?

Page 2

Panel 1. *"Even ancients pondered problem that still plagues man today."* **2.** *"This radiation test will prove date conclusively."* **3.** *"The rays react."* **4.** *"This intensity meter places statue at 4000 B.C."* **5.** *"That fierce face--thank goodness we've progressed today."* **6.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 1. The panel was cropped when published.)

Pages 3-5

As published in *Fantastic Four* #108, pages 2-4



4

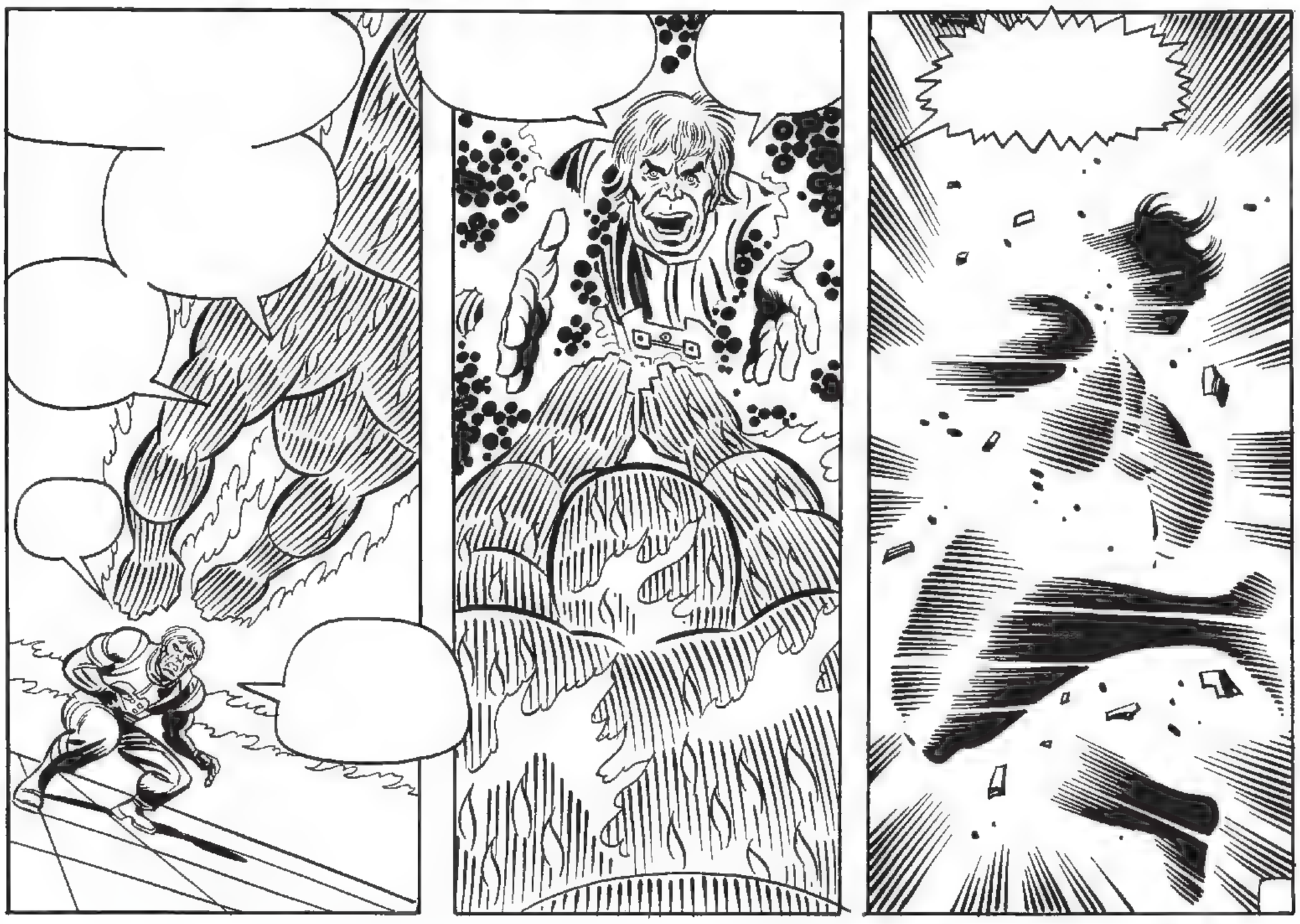
Page 6

Panel 1. *"This gives Intruder temporary strength of Thing--he bops Ben hard."* **2.** *"Then like beast he hammers away without mercy"* **5.** *"Torch comes to meet Ben--instead finds shambles"* **6.** *"I don't know how you did all this--but it's over!"*

THIS GIVES INTRUDER TEMPORARY STRENGTH
FANTASTIC FOUR #104
6
THEN LIKE BEAST HE HAM-MERS AWAY WITH-OUT MERCY
TORCH COMES TO MEET BEN--
INSTEAD FINDS SHAMBLES
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID
ALL THIS --BUT IT'S OVER!

Page 7

As published in *Fantastic Four* #108, page 6



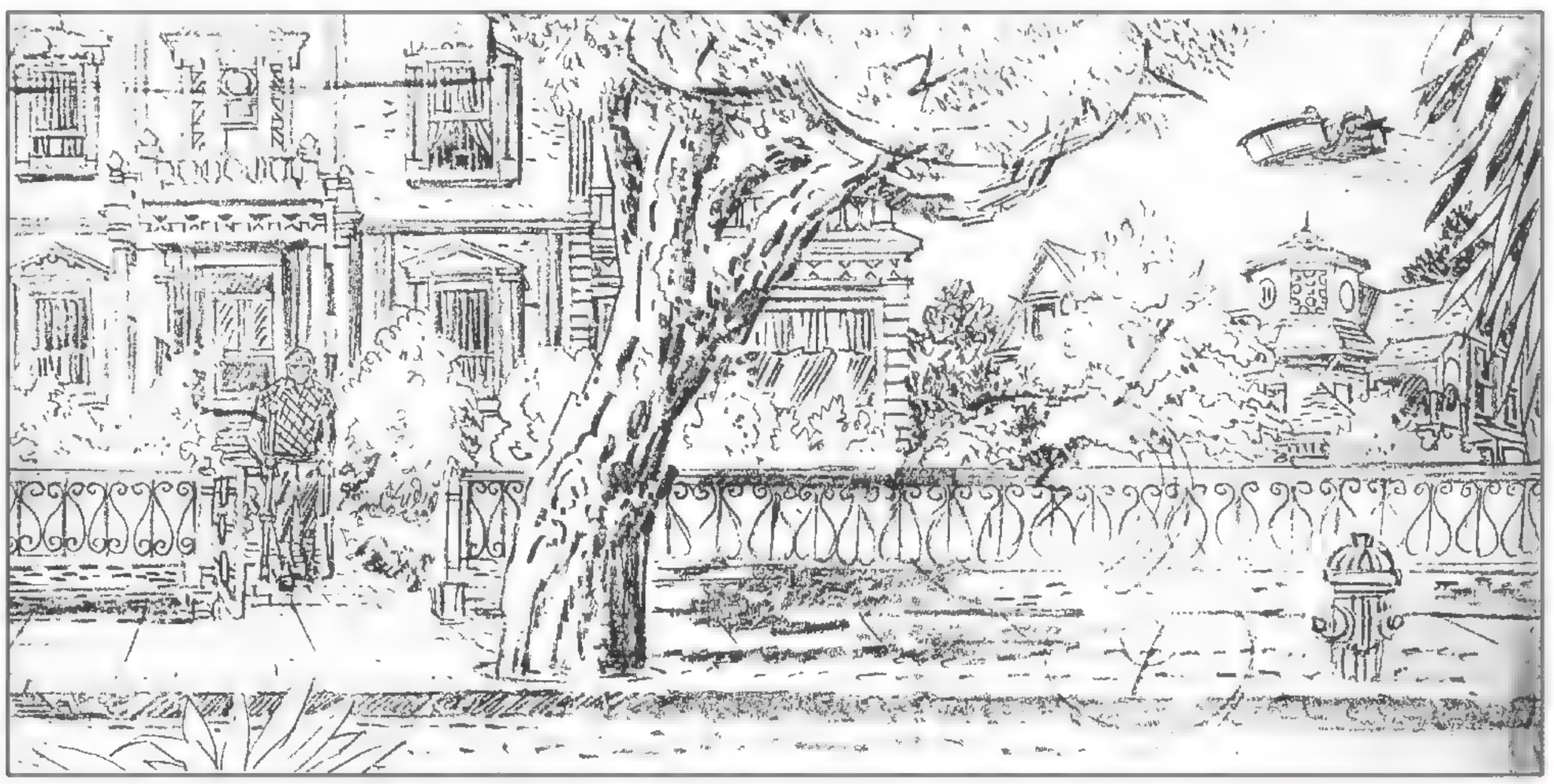
Page 8

Panel 1. *"Torch whirls in _____ nightmare."* (From *Fantastic Four* #108, page 7, Panels 1-3) **2.** *"_____ like bad dream."* **3.** *"Torch wakes up in _____."* **4.** *"Ben says we blew it--the guy got away with a million bucks."* **5.** (missing panel) **6.** *"Yeah--he's now number one--on the ten most wanted felons!"* **7.** *"We can't stay here! Let's get him--"* *"Reed says cool it--he's following a lead."*

TORCH WHIRLS IN NIGHTMARE
LIKE BAD DREAM
BEN SAYS WE BLEW IT-- THE GUY GOT AWAY WITH A MILLION BUCKS
DAILY EXAMINER
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OGRE STILL AT LARGE -- LOOTS YACHT IN MID-OCEAN!
BANK CAPER MAY BE ONLY THE START OF
YEAH - HE'S NOW NUMBER ONE - ON THE TEN MOST WANTED FELONS!
WE CAN'T STAY HERE! LET'S GET HIM--
REED SAYS COOL IT--HE'S FOLLOWING A LEAD

Page 9

Panel 1. (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 15, Panel 4.) **2-5.** (Missing panels, possibly showing Sue planting mini-camera in Janus' house.)



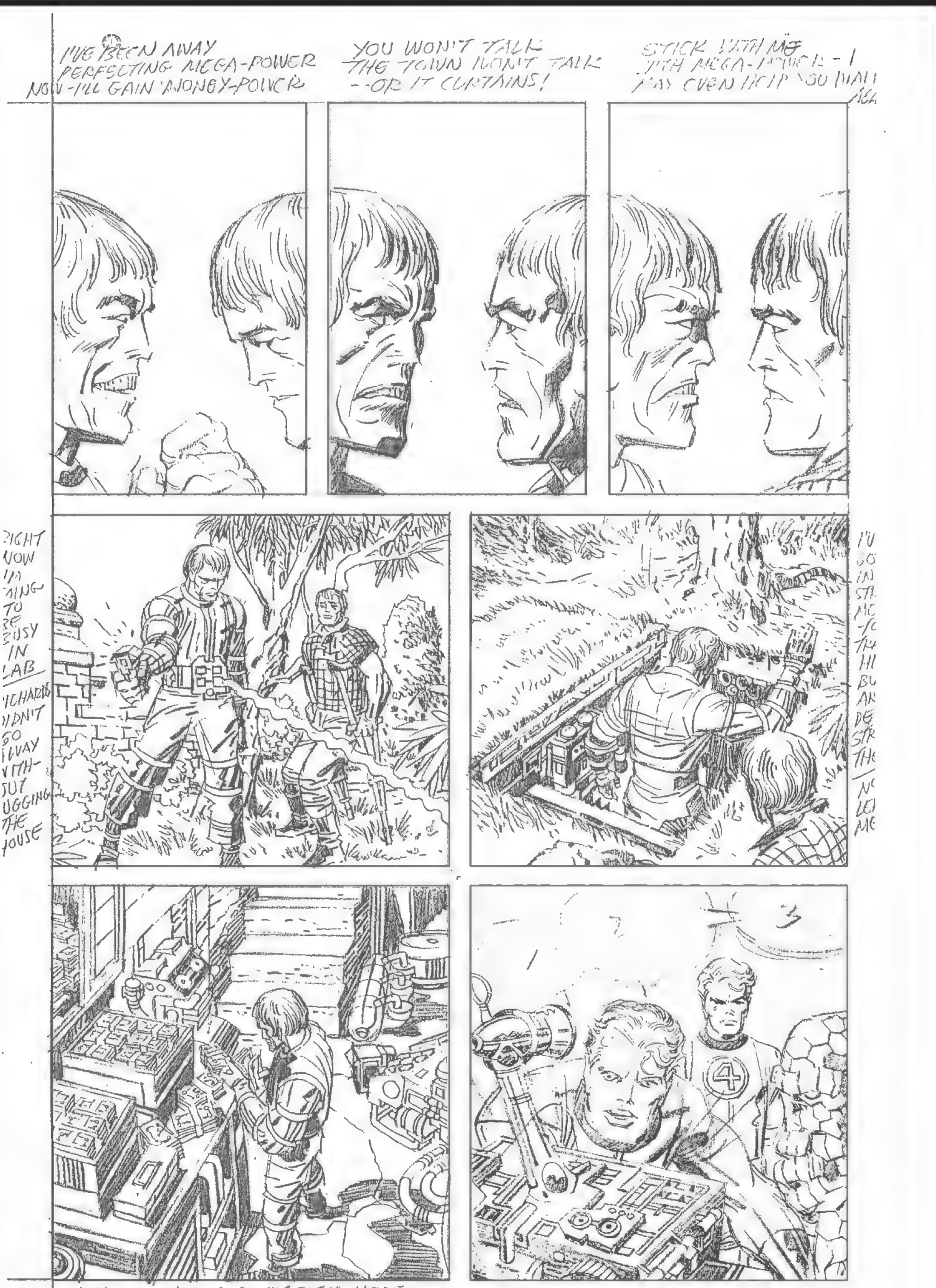
Page 10

Panels 1-2. (Missing panels, possibly showing Sue planting a mini-camera in Janus' house.) **3.** *"Reed is amazed at mildness of Prof, who is complete opposite of Ben's description."* **5.** *"Meanwhile, the Prof's evil brother has been watching--he says Richards must be flabbergasted."* **6.** *"Prof says--why did you have to come after all these years?" "Because you're a perfect cover, brother--"*

REED IS AMAZED AT MILD-NESS OF PROF WHO IS COMPLETE OPPO-SITE OF BEN'S DES-CRIP-TION
MEANWHILE, THE PROF'S EVIL BROTHER HAS BEEN WATCHING--HE SAYS RICHARDS MUST BE FLABBERGASTED
PROF SAYS--WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS
BECAUSE YOU'RE A PERFECT COVER BROTHER--
10

Page 11

Panel 1. *"I've been away perfecting Mega-Power. Now--I'll gain money-power."* **2.** *"You won't talk. The town won't talk--or it's curtains!"* **3.** *"Stick with me. With Mega-Power--I may even help you walk again."* **4.** *"Right now I'm going to be busy in lab. Richards didn't go away without bugging the house."* **5.** *"I've got instruments to trace his bugs and destroy them. Now leave me."* **6.** *"Yes--my plans don't stop here--I'll empty that whole city of its money."* **7.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 7, Panel 6.)

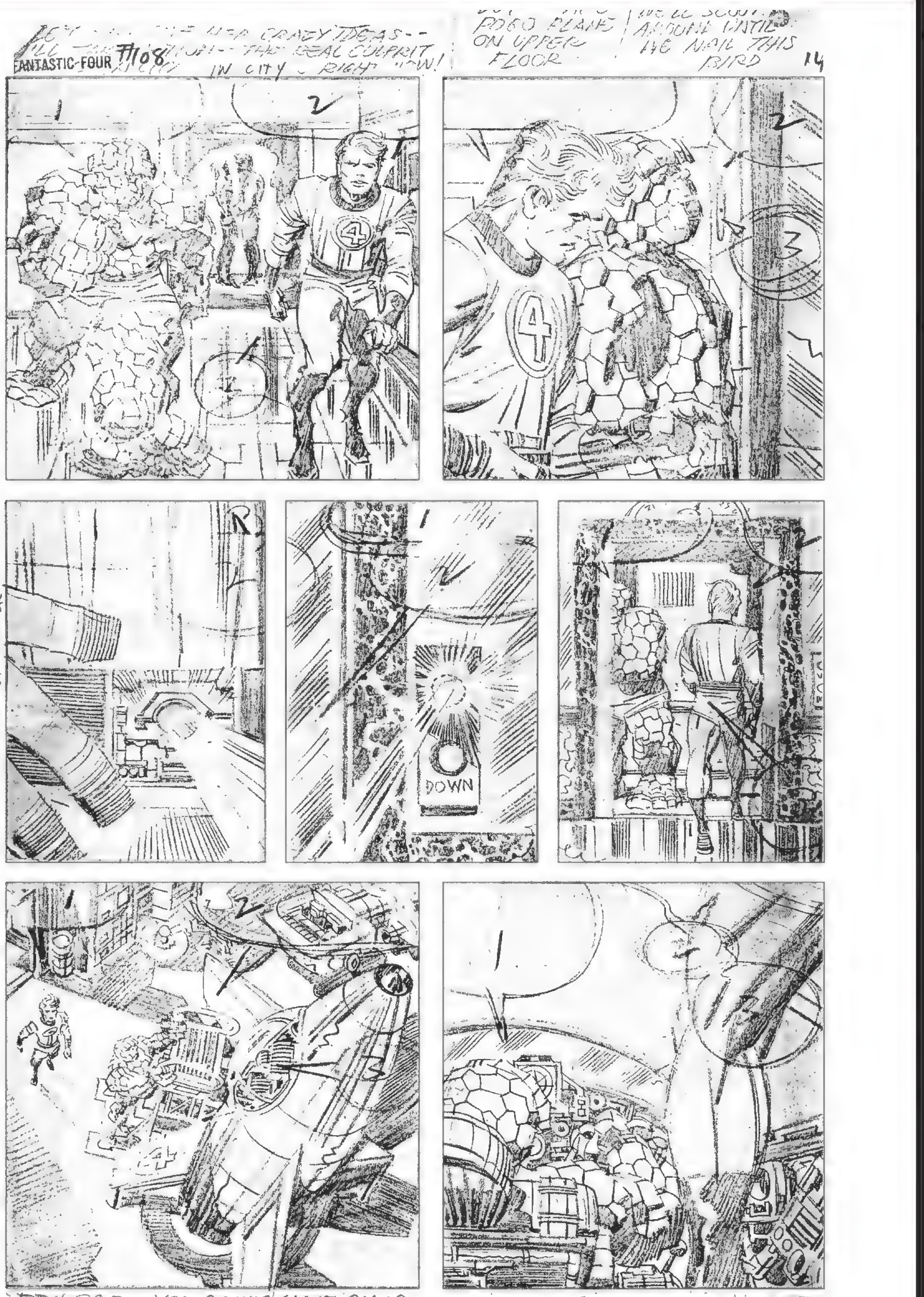

I'VE BEEN AWAY PERFECTING MEGA-POWER NOW--I'LL GAIN MONEY-POWER
YOU WON'T TALK THE TOWN WON'T TALK --OR IT CURTAINS!
STICK WITH ME WITH MEGA-POWER--I MAY EVEN HELP YOU WALK AGA
RIGHT NOW I'M GOING TO BE BUSY IN LAB
RICHARDS DIDN'T GO AWAY WITH-OUT BUGGING THE HOUSE
I'VE GOT INSTRUMENTS TO TRACE HIS BUGS AND DESTROY THEM/ NOW LEAVE ME
YES--MY PLANS DON'T STOP HERE-- I'LL EMPTY THAT WHOLE CITY OF

Pages 12-13

This page would have been split into two half pages, with ads running under them--a practice that got a 20-page story out of only 19 pages of art. **Panels 1-2.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 8, Panels 2-3.) **3.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 8, Panel 6.) **4.** *"_____ with mini-camera"* (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 9, Panel 1.) **5.** *"What happened?" "Ben says--Reed's mini-camera blew up in our faces--that's what!"* **6.** *"That was no malfunction--that was Mega-Power. Listen Sue--I have a nutty idea--"*

Page 14

Panel 1. *"Let him give her crazy ideas--I'll take action--the real culprit must be in city _____ right now!"* **2.** *"We'll take the Pogo Plane on upper floor. We'll scout around until we nail this bird."* **3.** "Ray shoots out from Johnny's belt. It strikes 'up' button." **6.** *"Ben says--you can't have girls tagging along all the time--Alicia's visiting _____"* **7.** *"Boy--these controls feel great--did you know I was a World War 2 ace?"*

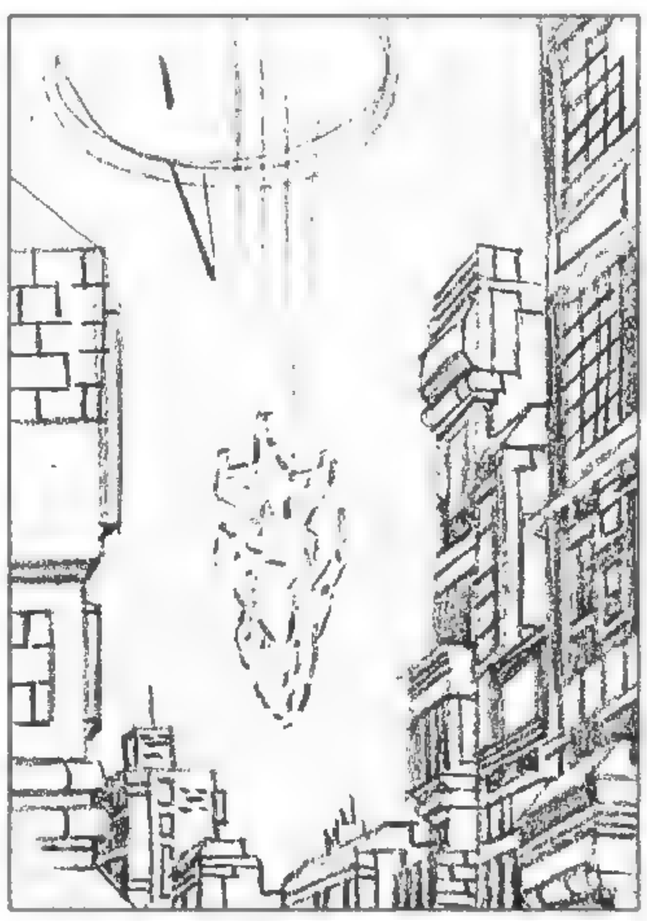

FANTASTIC-FOUR #108
14
4
DOWN
RAY SHOOTS OUT FROM JOHNNY'S BELT — IT STRIKES "UP" BUTTON
BEN SAYS -- YOU CAN'T HAVE GIRLS TAGGING ALONG ALL THE TIME -- ALICIA'S VISITING
BOY -- THESE CONTROLS FEEL GREAT -- DID YOU KNOW I

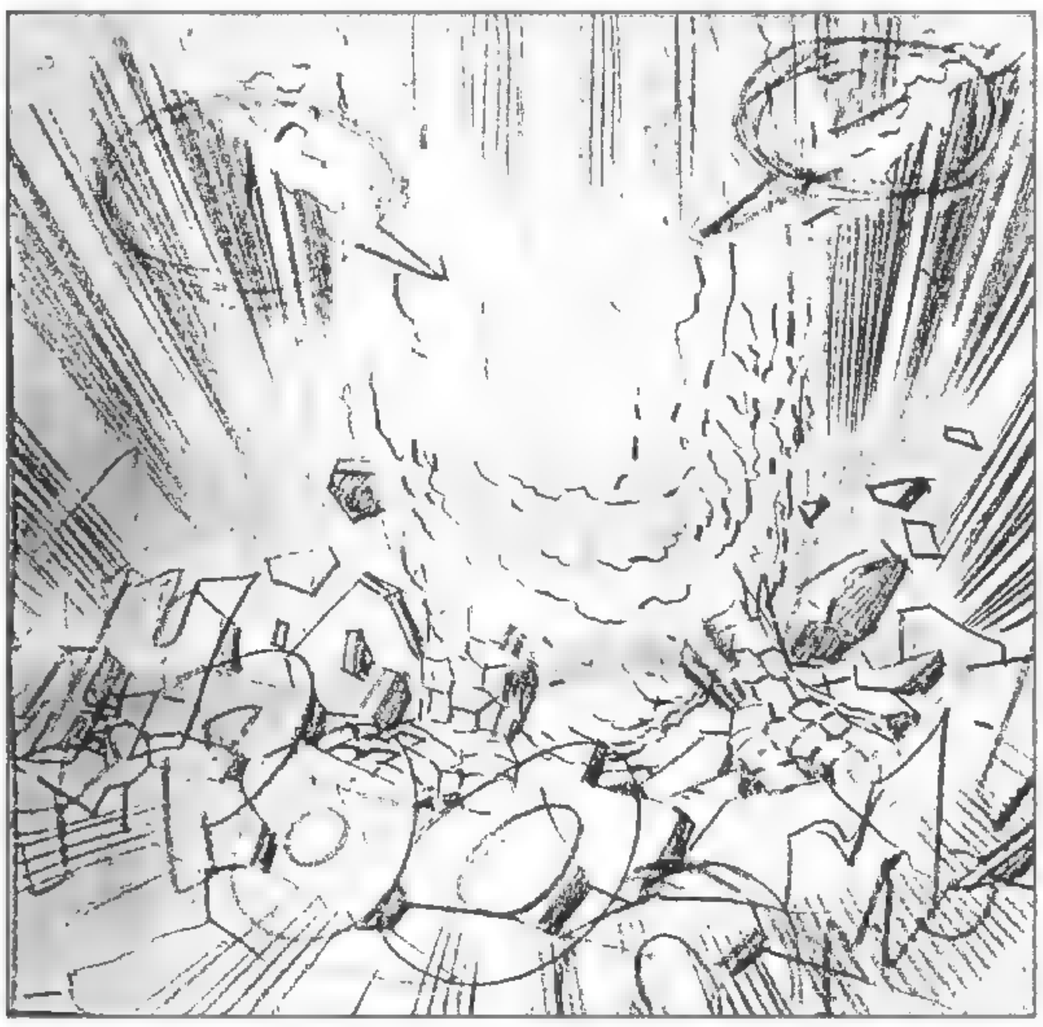
Page 15

Panel 1. *"How's this for a takeoff--she handles great!"* **2.** *"_____ friend's crummy craft! I'll take him like the Red Baron."* **3.** *"You see what I see?"* **4.** *"Flying debris from street below. Ripped out by Mega-Power! Let's go!"* **6.** *"He sees plane! I can't leave without a parting shot--"*

Page 16

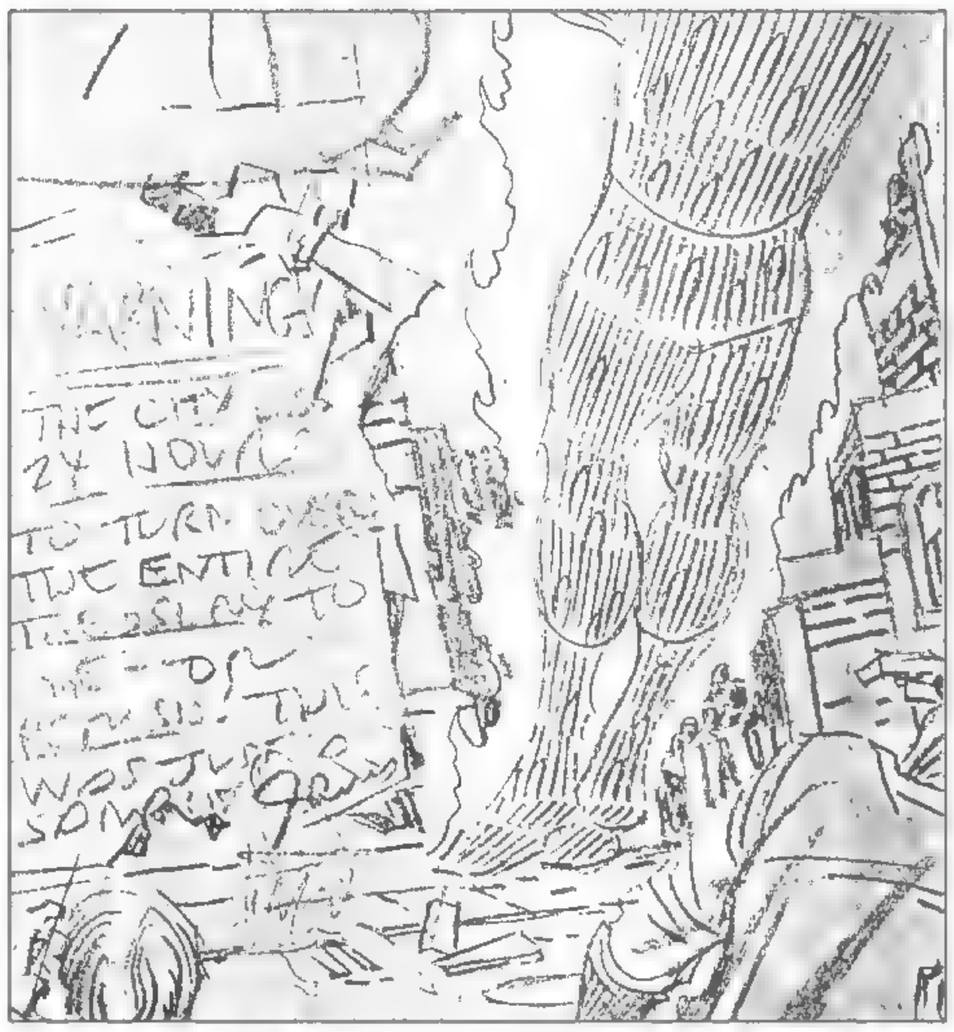
Panels 1-2. (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 13, Panels 1-2. Originals were cropped.) **3.** *"Ben! The cockpit's frozen tight! Ben says Flame On, kid. Get out! I can't control it."* **3-7.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 14, Panels 1-5.)



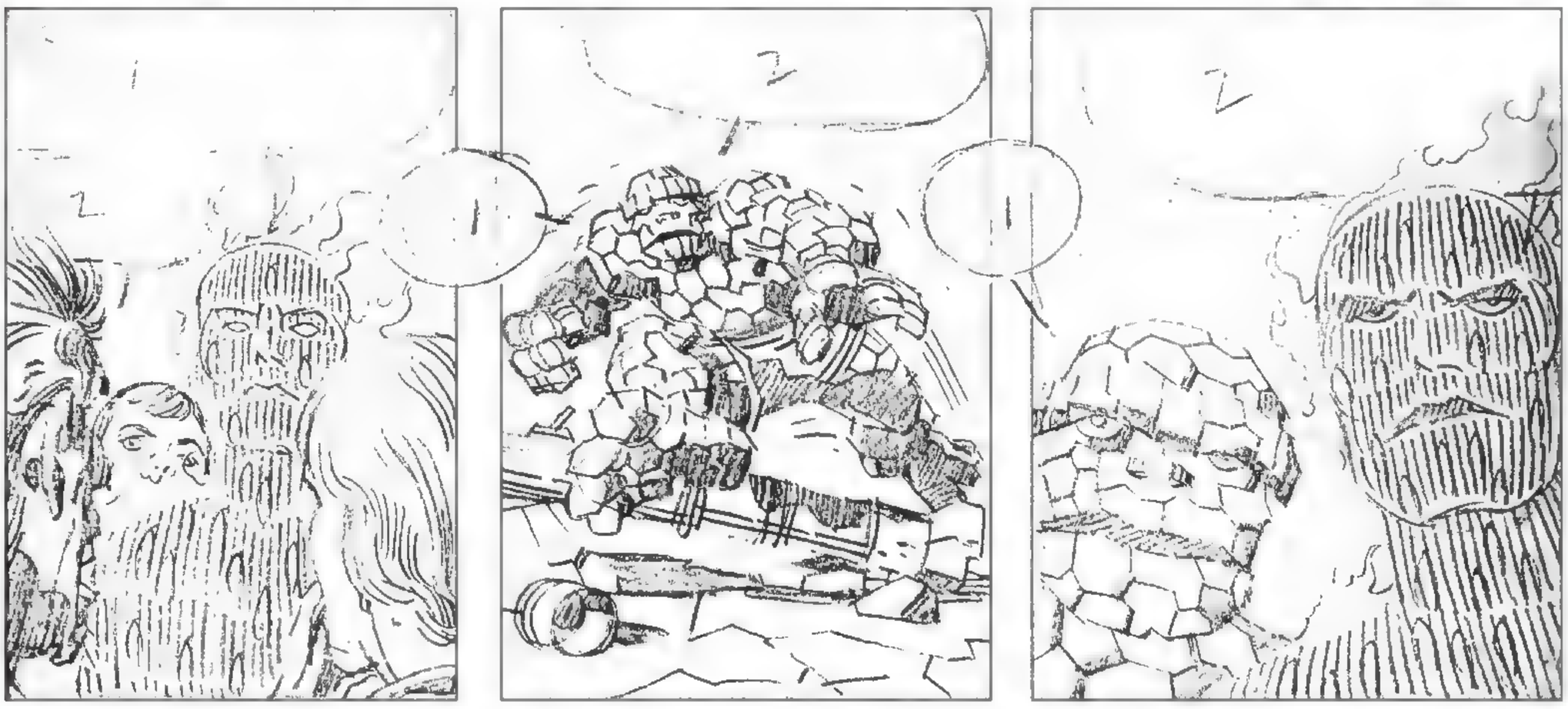


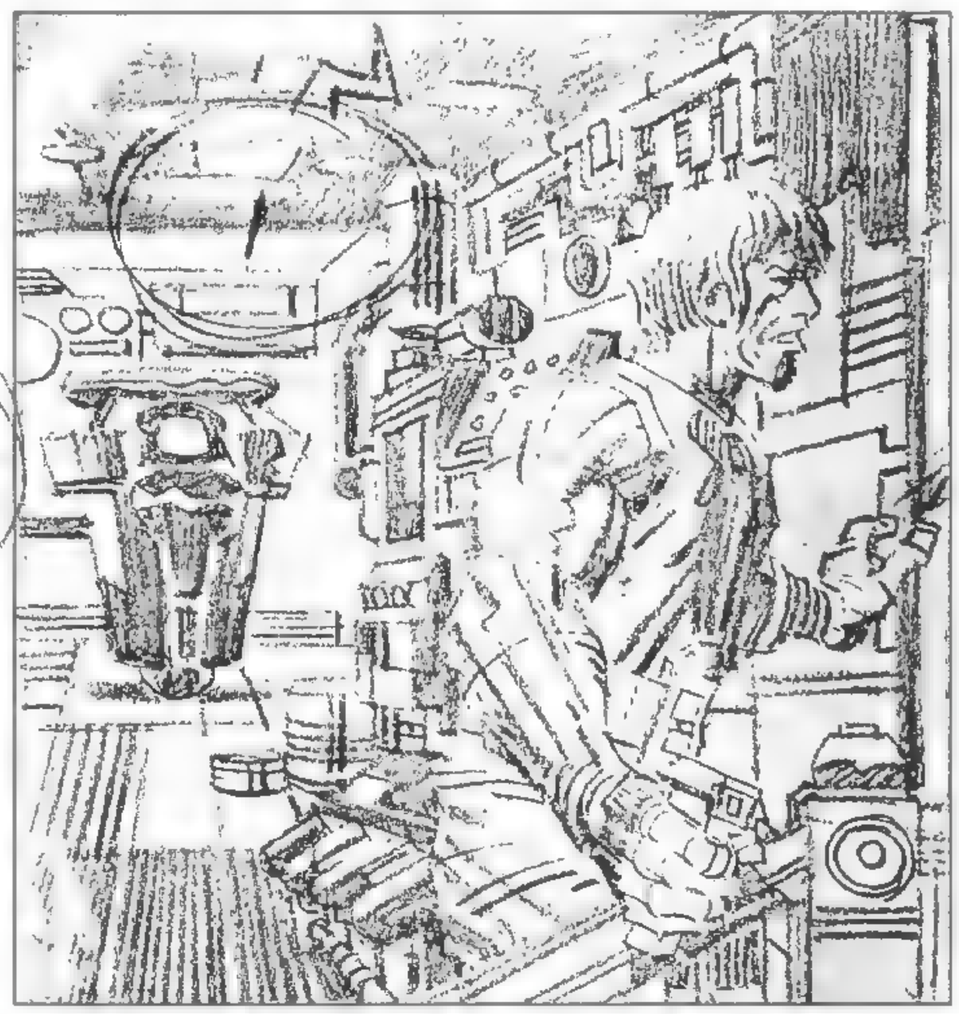
Page 17

Panels 1-2. (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 14, Panels 6-7.) **3.** *"Bruised people say--are we in his power? Can you stop him?"* **3-5.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 15, Panels 1-3.) **6-7.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 16, Panels 3-4.)



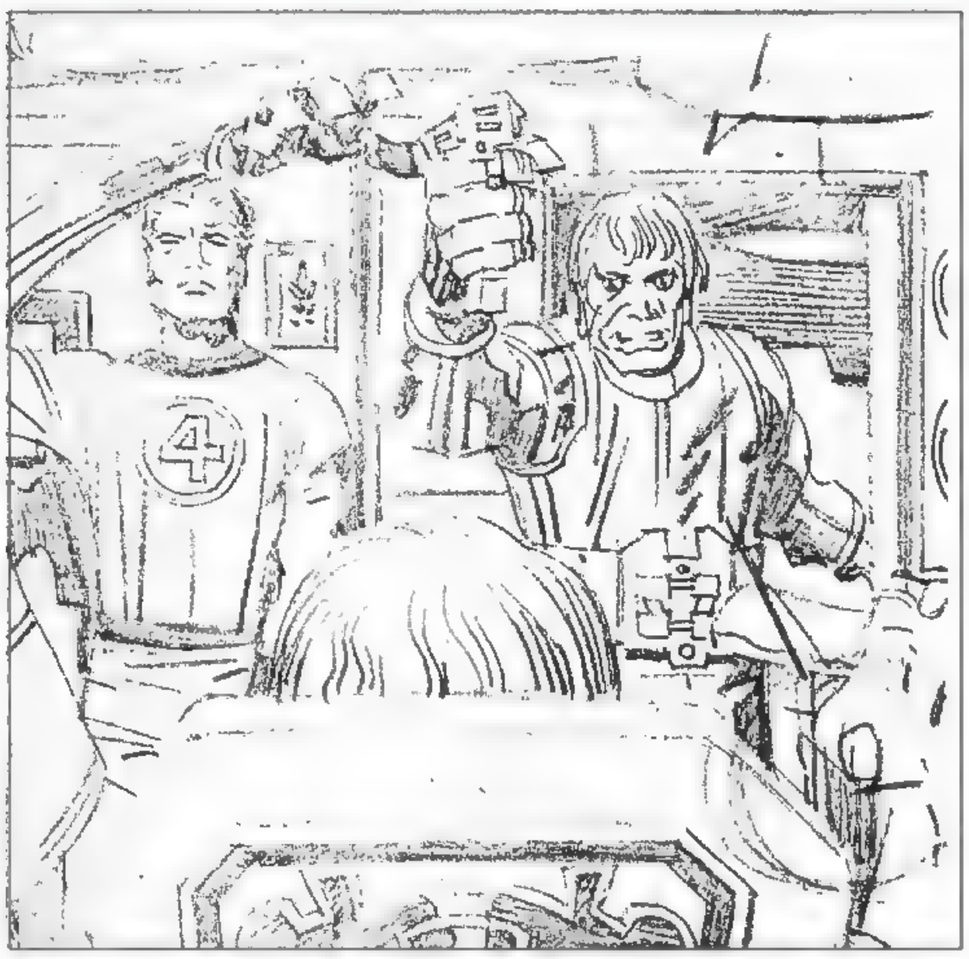
BRUISED PEOPLE SAY-- ARE WE IN HIS POWER? CAN YOU STOP HIM?

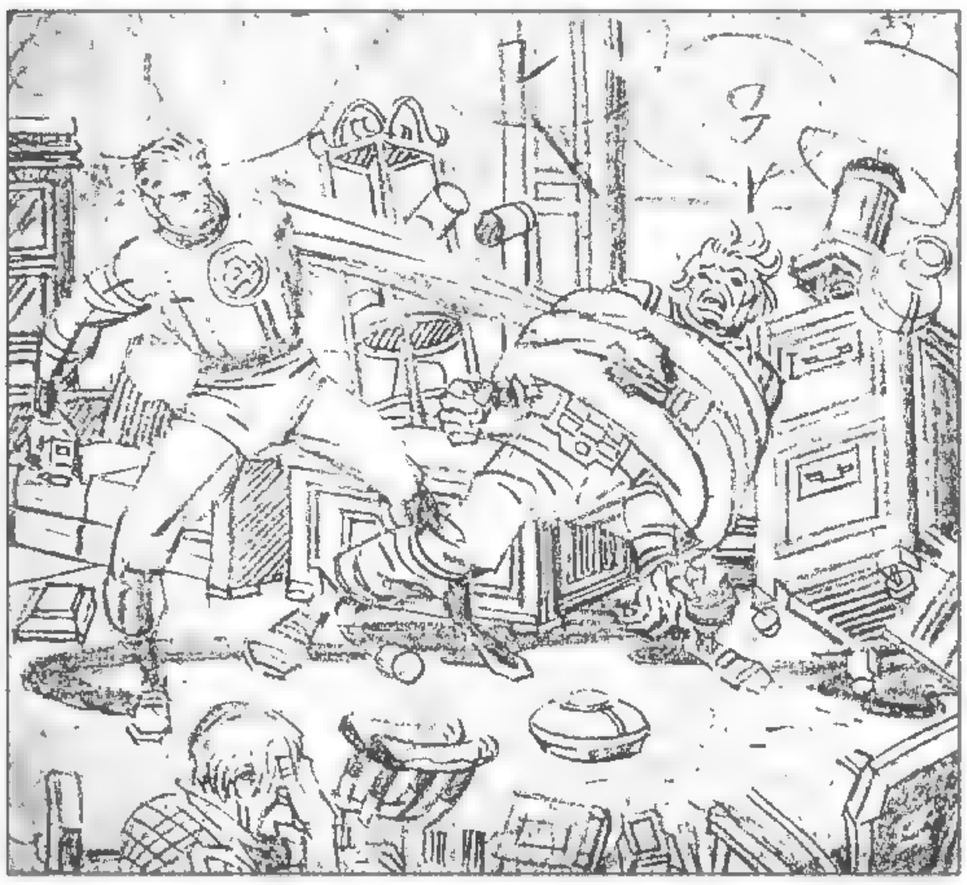


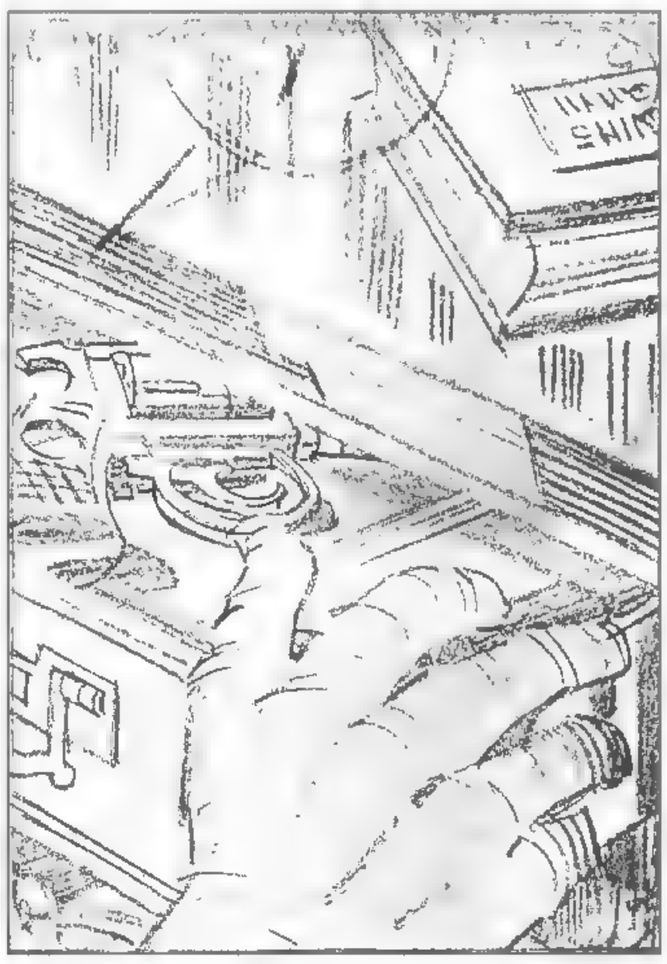


Page 18

Panels 1-2. (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 16, Panels 5-6.) **3-7.** (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 17, Panels 1-5.)

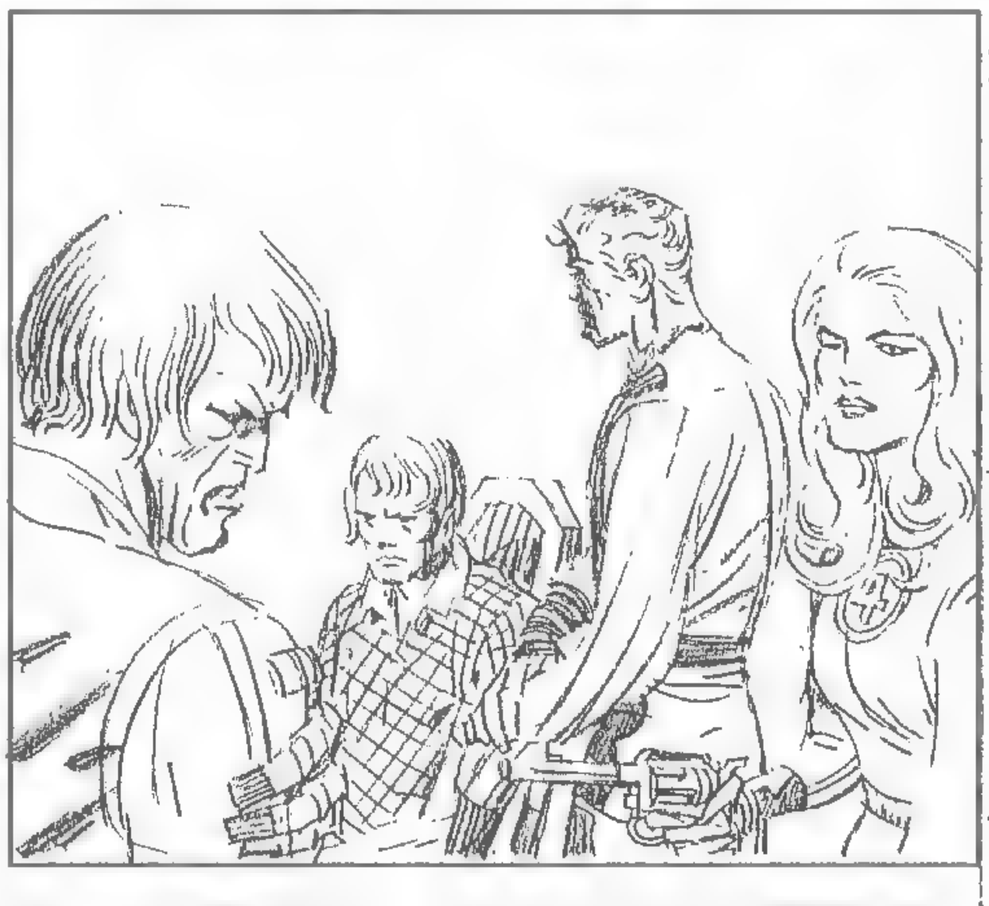






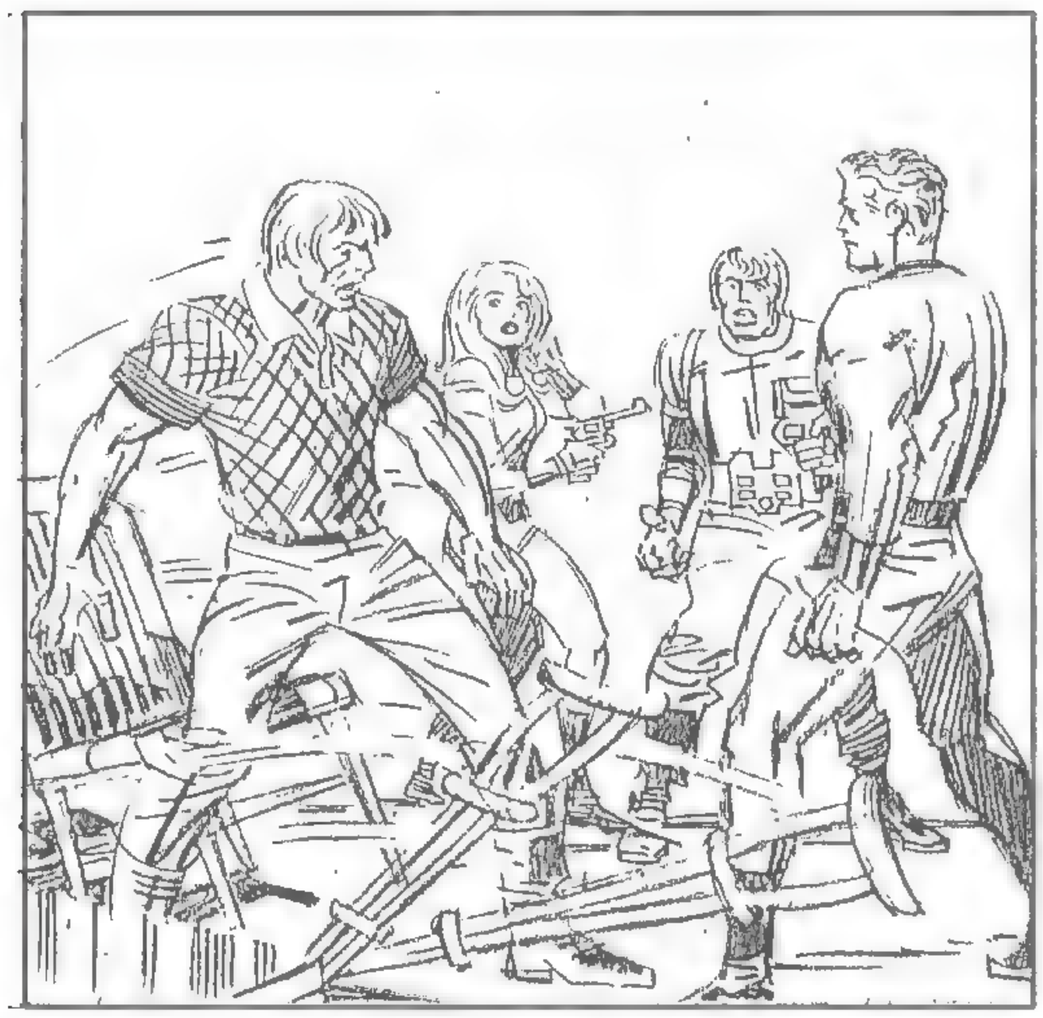
Page 19

Panel 1. (From *Fantastic Four* #108, Page 17, Panel 6.) **2-3.** (No Margin Notes Visible.) **4.** *"She grabs gun before twin can reach for it." "Reed says--use gun to cover bad twin, Sue!"* **5.** *"Reed says to good twin--you're a fool you know. The criminal's path is no solution."* **6.** (Margin notes are erased.) **7.** *"Reed touches good twin's feet with trigger."* (The page number "19" has been erased, but is visible.)



Page 20

Panel 1. (Margin Notes have been erased.) **2.** *"Who can tell what Mega-power can do?"* **3.** *"Don't trust him! Get him while you can! I'll handle the girl!"* (Note the scalloped corners, indicating this was considered for a flashback scene in *Fantastic Four* #108.) **4.** (Margin Notes have been erased.) **5-7.** (Missing Panels.)



FANTASTIC FOUR: THE LOST ADVENTURE

Between 1961 and 1970, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby produced 102 consecutive issues of *Fantastic Four*, as well as six Annuals. However, there was a 103rd issue that they'd begun working on, but never completed.

While portions of that story saw print some months later as an extended flashback sequence in *Fantastic Four* #108, the original incarnation of that tale has never been finished until now!

Working from Jack Kirby's penciled pages and their extensive border notes, Stan Lee and Joe Sinnott have reunited to complete what they'd begun 38 years earlier, aided in part by Ron Frenz and Chris Sotomayor.

MARVEL

Fantastic Four

THE LOST ADVENTURE

THE FABULOUS F.F. LEARN THAT TWO HEADS ARE DEADLIER THAN ONE!

THE MENACE OF THE MEGA-MEN!

*JUST FOR A CHANGE, WE **DON'T** OPEN WITH REED BENDING OVER SOME FANTASTIC, SCIENTIFIC KIRBYESQUE CONTRAPTION!*

BUT THAT TWO-HEADED STATUE MAY PROVE TO BE THE MOST FANTASTIC ITEM OF ALL!

WHAT A *STRANGE* BIT OF SCULPTURE, DR.RICHARDS!
WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?
IT'S *JANUS*, THE DOUBLE-FACED ROMAN GOD OF BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS.
I KEEP IT AS A REMINDER OF ONE OF OUR *DEADLIEST* ADVENTURES!
I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE--
--HOW CLOSE JANUS CAME TO *DESTROYING THE WORLD!*

A *STAN LEE* & *JACK KIRBY* PRODUCTION

JOE SINNOTT
EMBELLISHER

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
COLORIST

ARTMONKEYS
LETTERER

MOLLY LAZER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

SPECIAL THANKS TO
RON FRENZ

DESTROYING THE WORLD, *INDEED!*

I'M A *SCIENTIST,* MY DEAR SUSAN.

I DON'T DEAL IN COMICBOOK PHRASEOLOGY.

THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO PUT IT, MY FRIEND.

IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE IT EVER HAPPENED!

I CAPTURED MOST OF THE INCREDIBLE EVENT ON MY NANO-DIGITAL NUCLEOSCAN.

A *NUCLEOSCAN,* REED?

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING NO LAB SHOULD BE WITHOUT.

MUST WE WITNESS THE WHOLE HORRIBLE EVENT AGAIN?

DR. CLAYMORE FEELS YOU WERE INDULGING IN HYPERBOLE, SUE.

AFTER HE SEES WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW HIM--

--PERHAPS HE'LL HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR "COMICBOOK PHRASEOLOGY"!

REED, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS.

I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR AMAZING EXPLOITS.

BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SO-CALLED *JANUS* CAPER!

THAT'S RIGHT, CLAY. I'VE NEVER SPOKEN OF IT.

BUT I WANT TO PROVE TO YOU THAT MY LOVELY WIFE DIDN'T EXAGGERATE--

--WHEN SHE SAID JANUS ALMOST DESTROYED THE WORLD!

"YOU WERE AT AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IN TIBET, CLAY, WHEN A STRANGE, GYROSCOPIC AIRCRAFT ATTACKED THE CENTER OF NEW YORK!"

WOW! WILLYA LOOK AT *THAT?*

WHAT'S IT ADVERTISING?

"WITHIN SECONDS, THE CITY KNEW IT WAS NO ADVERTISING STUNT!"

IT--CUT THRU THAT *TRUCK*..

LIKE A *KNIFE*-- THRU BUTTER.

STUNG!

LOOK OUT!

IT--IT'S COMING RIGHT *TOWARDS US!*

IT'S HEADING FOR THE *BANK!*

BANK

RUN! RUN!

YES, *FLEE!* FLEE IN TERROR.. LIKE THE TIMID *SHEEP* YOU ARE...

FLEE-- AS I CRASH INTO YOUR PUNY *BANK* WITH ONLY A *FRACTION* OF MY POWER!

AND NOW THAT I HAVE *ACHIEVED* MY OBJECTIVE--

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO *REVEAL* MYSELF ...

JUST AS IT IS TIME FOR THE *HUMAN RACE*..

--TO MEET ITS INVINCIBLE NEW *MASTER!*

CRINGE, YOU HAPLESS WEAKLINGS! CRINGE, AND TREMBLE, AS YOU FINALLY BEHOLD--

JANUS, THE MEGA-MAN!

NO FORCE ON EARTH IS THE EQUAL OF MY POWER!

SEE HOW THE SIMPLEST PRESSURE ON MY CONTROL MODULE--

--CAN CREATE A MEGA-POWERED CONCUSSION BLAST!

SHOOM!

OR, WITH EQUAL EASE, CAN TRIGGER A TRANQUILIZER MIST...

BRINGING INSTANT SLEEP TO ANYONE!

AND NOW NOTHING CAN STOP ME FROM PLUNDERING THE VAULT AT WILL!

HEY! WHAT'S A GUY HAVETA DO TA GIT A LITTLE PRIVACY 'ROUND HERE?

THE THING!

NOTE: REREADING THIS PAGE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I SUDDENLY FEEL COMPELLED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE LACK OF ACTION. I GUESS JACK AND I WERE JUST KIND'A COASTING AT THE TIME. --SARCASTIC STAN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING INSIDE THIS VAULT?

PUTTIN' A LITTLE NEST EGG ASIDE FER A RAINY DAY.

NOW GIT LOST, SONNY. YER STARTIN' TA BREATHE ON ME.

YOU GROTESQUE, OVER-RATED CLOD! YOU'RE TALKING TO JANUS, THE MEGA-MAN!

LOOK, CORNBALL--YA'LL BE JANUS WIT' THE FAT LIP IF YA DON'T GIT OFFA MY BACK!

VERY WELL.. YOU ASKED FOR IT.

ALL I NEED DO IS SET THE MODULE..

-- AND THE THING WILL TROUBLE ME NO MORE!

OKAY, BUTTERCUP-- IF THIS IS WHAT YER TRYIN' TA DO---

YA SHOULDA SAID SO.

NOW GO PLAY WIT' YER TOYS SOMEWHERE ELSE, HUH?

I DUNNO WHY ALL THE CRACKPOTS LATCH ONTA ME!

NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU CALL JANUS A CRACKPOT--

NOT AFTER I'VE INCREASED THE MASS OF MY ATOMIC STRUCTURE..

BY PRESSING MY CONTROL MODULE TO HIGHEST INTENSITY.

NOW, MY STRENGTH HAS BEEN MOMENTARILY INCREASED...

BEYOND ANY-THING THAT EVEN YOU CAN COPE WITH.

BTOK!

YOU THOUGHT I WAS MERELY A SIMPLE ECCENTRIC.

BUT NOW.. YOU WILL THINK DIFFERENTLY.

-- IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO EVER THINK AGAIN.

BEN, I'M SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS-- HEY!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SO-- THE HUMAN TORCH WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HIS BESTIAL FRIEND HERE, EH?

A PITY THE MEGA-MAN MUST FORCE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS.

MEGA-MAN?

LOOK, I DUNNO HOW YOU FLOORED THE THING-- BUT NOBODY DOES THAT TO A MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

FLAME ON!

YOU MAY BURST INTO *FLAME* TO YOUR HEART'S *CONTENT*...

BUT WHAT CHANCE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST *JANUS*--?

--WHEN THE *MEGA-MAN* CAN MEET YOUR ATTACK BY SWINGING A *VAULT DOOR* HELD IN *ONE* HAND!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT YOUR *STRENGTH* FROM, MISTER -- AND I COULDN'T CARE *LESS*.

BUT YOU *SAW* HOW I BURNED THRU THAT *TEN-TON DOOR*.

SO, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S *GOOD* FOR YOU---

INDEED I *DO*.

--WHICH IS WHY I NOW *ALTER* MY MODULE'S *FREQUENCY*.

--CONVERTING IT TO *ELECTRICAL VOLTAGE*.

IN SHORT, I'VE NOW BECOME--

A *LIVING DYNAMO!*

ONLY YOUR *FLAME* CAN PREVENT THE SHOCK FROM *SLAYING* YOU.

POOR, PITIFUL JOHNNY STORM.

JOHNNY STORM

JOHNNY

IT'S *OKAY*, BEN. HE'S COMING *TO*.

HUH?

WHA-- WHAT *HAPPENED?*

TAKE IT *EASY*, JOHNNY. YOU MUSTN'T *OVEREXERT* YOURSELF!

YA GOT *CLOBBERED*, KID-- SAME AS *ME*-- BY THAT NUT *JANUS!*

THE GUY GOT AWAY WITH A *MILLION BUCKS!*

THEN-- IT REALLY *HAPPENED?* I WASN'T *DREAMING?*

WHERE'S *REED?* WE'VE GOTTA *TELL* HIM!

HIM AND *SUZIE* ARE GETTIN' SET TA *JET OFF!* HE SAYS HE THINKS HE'S GOT A *LEAD* ON THIS CAPER!

IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GONNA CATCH UP ON MY READING.

A LITTLE *CULTURE* NEVER HURT NOBODY!

SHEEESH! DOES DOONESBURY HAVETA USE SO MANY BIG WORDS?

DAILY BUGLE

MYSTERY OBJECT STRIKES AGAIN!

LOOTS YACHT IN MID-OCEAN

HEY, *REED!* WHAT ABOUT BEN AND ME?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, JOHNNY! WAIT FOR MY CALL!

HERE, HOTHEAD. I AWREDDY FINISHED *PEANUTS.*

LATER, AS KIRBY DISPLAYS HIS SKILL AT DRAWING A BUCOLIC SCENE...

THIS IS THE ADDRESS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, REED.

BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING IN *KANSAS?* ISN'T THE THREAT IN NEW YORK CITY?

I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED A *CLASSMATE* OF MINE--NAMED *CORWIN JANUS!*

I THINK HIS NAME IS *MORE* THAN COINCIDENCE!

THAT'S *HIM!* HE BECAME A RECLUSE AFTER AN ACCIDENT CRIPPLED HIM.

BUT WHAT HAS HE TO DO WITH--?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT!

TURN *INVISIBLE,* DEAR!

WHILE I KEEP JANUS OCCUPIED, YOU ENTER HIS HOUSE AND PLANT THIS *MINI-CAMERA!*

THE *FANTASTI-CAR!* I'D RECOGNIZE IT ANYWHERE!

BUT *WHY--?*

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, JANUS.

RICHARDS! I CAN GUESS WHY YOU'VE COME. BUT THINGS ARE *NOT* AS THEY SEEM.

I'VE *READ* ABOUT ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED--

BUT, *I'M* NOT THE ONE YOU WANT.

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH.

YOU MUST *GO*, RICHARDS. YOUR LIFE IS IN *DANGER* HERE.

I CAN TELL YOU NO MORE.

I'VE PLANTED THE CAMERA, REED.

PLEASE, LEAVE RIGHT NOW--WHILE YOU CAN.

YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST!

I'M GOING, JANUS. THANKS FOR THE WARNING.

A PITY YOU SCARED HIM AWAY.

I'D HAVE ENJOYED *TOYING* WITH HIM.

HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH?

HAVEN'T YOU CAUSED ENOUGH DAMAGE, ENOUGH MISERY?

OF COURSE NOT, BROTHER!

I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!

YOU SHOULD *REJOICE* IN MY POWER!

AND IN THE FACT THAT I WON'T HARM *YOU!*

YOU CAN'T!

DON'T BE TOO SURE!

I CAN DO *ANYTHING*-- DESTROY *ANYONE!*

NOBODY IS SAFE!

KEEP PLAYING YOUR ROLE, BROTHER, AND MAYBE I'LL USE THE MONEY I'VE LOOTED TO HELP YOU *WALK AGAIN!*

BUT IF YOU DARE *OPPOSE* ME--!

WHAT AM I SAYING?

HOW CAN *YOU* OPPOSE ME?

WAIT HERE, WHILE I CHECK OUT THE HOUSE.

RICHARDS WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE WITHOUT A *REASON!*

HE MIGHT HAVE FOUND A WAY TO PLANT A *BUG!*

BUT *NOTHING* CAN GET PAST *ME!*

AND WITH THE WEALTH I'VE STOLEN, I'LL BE ABLE TO--

WAIT! WHAT'S THIS I DETECT? A DIGITAL *MINI-CAMERA!*

THE *FOOL!* DOESN'T HE REALIZE WHO HE'S *DEALING* WITH?!!

WHERE *WERE* YOU, REED? WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

YOU'LL SEE IN A MINUTE!

SOON AS I LOG ONTO THE *CAMERA* SUE HID.

DON'T RUSH 'IM, HOTHEAD.

STRETCHO LOVES HIS LITTLE SECRETS!

THERE! THAT'S JANUS IN HIS HOME-- IN KANSAS!

SUE'S CAMERA *CAUGHT* HIM!

YA FIGGERED THAT OUT ALL BY YER LONE-SOME?

I DON'T *GIT* IT! A FEW *HOURS* AGO HE WUZ *CLOBBERIN'* EVERYONE HE *SAW*.

NOW, HE SUDDENLY LOOKS LIKE A TREMBLIN' *MISTER NICE!*

IT'S GOTTA BE SOME KINDA *TRICK!*

LOOK! WHAT'S HE *DOING?*

VZOOM!!

LOOK OUT!

THE BLASTED *SCREEN* BLEW!!

HEY, STRETCHO, NEXT TIME YA BUY A TV MONITOR, DON'T GET IT FROM A GUY SELLIN' IT OFF THE BACK OF A TRUCK, OKAY?

THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE MONITOR, BEN!

IT'S JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF JANUS'S ALMOST UNLIMITED *POWER!*

IF HE COULD SEND A POWER BLAST OVER A D.S.L. LINE--

MAYBE, FOR ONCE, WE'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW!

COME *OFF* IT, KID! WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

REED, MAYBE JOHNNY'S *RIGHT*.

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T TRY TO GO IT ALONE.

WE'RE *NOT* ALONE, HONEY! THERE ARE *FOUR* OF US!

THREE ANNA HALF IF YA COUNT THE TORCH!

KNOW SOMETHIN', BEN? YOU'RE AS FUNNY AS A TAPEWORM--

WITH A WORSE PERSONALITY!

COOL IT, JOHNNY. WE'VE GOT *WORK* TO DO!

MY MONEY'S ON YOU, REED RICHARDS!

OKAY, HERE'S THE PLAN--

HE CAN'T FOOL *ME*. THERE'S STILL A *LOT* HE AIN'T *TOLD* US.

FUNNY--*I* ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT HE'S HOLDING SOMETHING *BACK*.

BUT WHAT CAN IT *BE*?

THE WHOLE THING'S LIKE A *JIGSAW PUZZLE*... WITH LOTS OF *MISSING* PIECES.

KNOW SOMETHIN', JUNIOR? YA GOT A REAL FLAIR FER THE *DRAMATIC*.

NOW *SHUDDUP* 'N SIGNAL THE *ELEVATOR*!

NO KIDDING, BEN-- HOW DID JANUS *CHANGE* THE WAY HE DID?

AND WHY MUST WE STAY *HERE* WHEN THE MEGA-MAN'S IN *KANSAS*?

REED MUST HAVE A *REASON* FOR WANTING US TO STAY IN MANHATTAN.

EVEN THOUGH JANUS CAN'T BE IN *TWO* PLACES AT ONCE!

DOWN

I WISH HE *WUZ*-- SO'S I COULD TEAR *INTA* HIM AGAIN.

HOW *COME*? YOU DIDN'T DO SO GOOD THE *FIRST* TIME.

UP

NOBODY LIKES A A *SMART-MOUTH*, KID!

YOU WANT US TO USE THE *POGO PLANE*?

HECK *NO*. I JUST GIT MY *KICKS* OUTTA OPENIN' 'N SHUTTIN' COCKPIT *DOORS*.

NOW GIT *IN* 'N GIVE YER JAWS A REST.

MAN! IF WE EVER GIT OUTTA THE *SUPERHEROING* RACKET-- WOTTA *DRAGSTER* THIS'D MAKE!

KNOCK IT *OFF*, BEN.

YOU'RE AS WORRIED AS *I* AM-- AND YOU *KNOW* IT.

YEAH? WHO MADE YOU A MIND READER ALL OF A SUDDEN?

HEY! WAIT A MINNIT--

SOMETHIN'S HAPPENIN' DOWN THERE! HANG ON, MATCH-HEAD!

I SEE IT, BEN. BUT-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

MEBBE THIS IS WHAT STRETCHO WAS EXPECTIN'? BUT-- HOW DID HE KNOW?

A WHOLE STREET'S BEING TORN UP--RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

MUST BE MORE OF THAT BLASTED MEGA-POWER-- OR WHATEVER HE CALLED IT! BUT HOW--IF JANUS IS IN KANSAS?

SEND YOUR MAYOR TO ME!

I WILL DICTATE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH HE WILL SURRENDER THE CITY AND ALL IT CONTAINS TO ME!

NO ONE CAN OPPOSE ME! JANUS IS SUPREME!

EVEN THE COWARDLY FANTASTIC FOUR ARE IN HIDING!

BUT I'LL FIND THEM-- AND THEN DESTROY THEM!

NOBODY KNOWS THE *SECRET* OF JANUS!

AND EVEN IF THEY *DID*---

NO POWER ON *EARTH* CAN STOP ME!

WAIT! WHAT'S *THAT*-- ABOVE ME?

IT'S THE PATHETIC LITTLE *POGO PLANE* OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

THE *FOOLS!* DO THEY THINK THEY CAN STOP JANUS WITH *THAT?!*

JANUS, WHO COULD *DESTROY* THE WORLD'S AIR FORCES *COMBINED!*

ALL I NEED IS ONE MEGA-POWER *HAND BLAST!*

BEN! I CAN'T *FLAME ON!* IT'S -- TOO *COLD!*

THE CONTROLS ARE *ICED UP!*

CAN'T KEEP HER IN THE *AIR!*

BRACE YERSELF, KID! THERE'S ONLY *ONE* THING TA DO--

I'LL *BREAK THRU* THE FUSELAGE-- WITH MY *LEGS*--

KRAK!

--*'N USE* 'EM WHEN WE *HIT*---

--TO ABSORB THE *SHOCK!*

THOOOM!

I DONE *BETTER* LANDINGS IN MY TIME--

BUT AT LEAST WE'RE IN *ONE* PIECE.

YOU *DID* YOUR SHARE, BEN---

NOW I'LL DO *MINE!*

GO *GIT* 'IM, HOT STUFF!

NUTS! I CAN'T FIND HIM ANY-WHERE!

BUT WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE? --AND WHY?

HE DIDN'T DO ALL OF THIS JUST FOR LAUGHS.

THAT SIGN ON THE WALL-- IT'S PART OF THE ANSWER.

WARNING! THE CITY HAS 24 HOURS TO TURN OVER THE ENTIRE TREASURY TO ME--OR PERISH! THIS WAS JUST A SAMPLE! Janus

THE TORCH! YOU AND YOUR SHOW-OFF PARTNERS WERE A GREAT HELP!

WHERE WERE YA WHEN WE NEEDED YOU?

WHO'S PUTTIN' MY BUDDY DOWN?

ANYONE GOT ANY GRIPES? YA CAN TAKE 'EM UP WITH THE BLUE-EYED THING!

HAH! LOOK AT THE CREEPS RUN!

NEVER MIND THEM, BEN, I'M WONDERING IF JANUS TOOK OFF FOR KANSAS-- AND FOR REED?

NOT LONG AFTER, IN THE HEART OF KANSAS...

THE SO-CALLED GREAT FANTASTIC FOUR!

BAH! THEY'RE YESTERDAY'S NEWS! OVER-THE-HILL HAS-BEENS!

NOW TO SETTLE THINGS WITH MY WEAKLING BROTHER--

ONCE AND FOR ALL!

KLIK!

SEE? I'VE RETURNED SAFELY-- AS I SAID I WOULD!

NO ONE CAN DEFY MY MEGA-POWER!

NO ONE-- EXCEPT THE MAN BEHIND YOU!

THIS IS IT, JANUS! THE FINAL ACT!

WHA--?!!

DON'T MOVE! DON'T REACH FOR YOUR CONTROL MODULE.

THE LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

MY OWN BROTHER-- BETRAYED ME!

DON'T CALL ME--YOUR BROTHER!

IT'S TIME TO COME CLEAN, JANUS! TIME TO REVEAL THE TRUTH!

I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING! NOTHING!

BROTHER! YOU MUST HELP ME! NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK OF ME-- YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!

REMEMBER WHO-- AND WHAT I AM!

I HAVE TRIED--TO FORGET.

BUT, AS HEAVEN IS MY WITNESS--I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

MUST HIS FATE BE FOREVER MINE?

CAN THERE NEVER BE AN END TO IT?

THE CHOICE IS MINE!

IT'S TIME TO *END* THIS-- FOREVER!

THAT'S *IT*, BROTHER! JUST *ONE* SHOT AND THE WORLD WILL BE *OURS!*

I'M *SORRY*-- BUT I *HAVE* TO DO THIS!

ONE SHOT IS ALL IT WILL TAKE!

AND ONE *HEAVY VASE* TRUMPS YOUR SHOT!

THUNNK!

THAT'S *IT*, HONEY! YOU PLAYED YOUR ROLE *PERFECTLY!* GRAB THE GUN!

GOT IT!

NOW WE'LL FINALLY PUT AN *END* TO THIS!

YOU'RE A *FOOL*, RICHARDS!

YOU KNOW MY *POWER!* NO JAIL CAN HOLD ME!

I'LL GET THE *DROP* ON YOU SOONER OR LATER!

STIFLE IT, MISTER!

YOUR BROTHER'S MEGA-POWER DEVICE CAN BE USED FOR *GOOD* AS WELL AS EVIL.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE'LL WIN OUT IN THE END.

HE ALWAYS *DOES!*

PERHAPS WE CAN *CHANGE* THAT EQUATION!

LET'S TRY USING THE POWER OF HIS DEVICE-- ON YOUR *LEGS!*

I--I CAN *WALK!*

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! IT'S LIKE A *MIRACLE!*

THE MIRACLE OF THE *MEGA-POWER* YOU PERFECTED!

YOUR BROTHER USED IT TO KEEP YOU *HELPLESS*--THE PERFECT *COVER* FOR HIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES!

DON'T *TRUST* HIM, BROTHER!

SHOOT THEM! *KILL* THEM!

WE'LL RULE THE WORLD *TOGETHER!*

SHUT UP! I'M *THROUGH* LISTENING TO *YOU,* BROTHER!

HE FIGURED THAT YOU WOULD TAKE THE *FALL* IF HE WAS EVER *DISCOVERED!*

AND USED THE PROMISE OF RESTORING YOUR *LEGS* TO KEEP YOU IN *LINE!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO THE *AUTHORITIES* FOR YOUR *ROLE* IN THIS, JANUS.

LET'S GO, RICHARDS. I--I'M *READY!*

YOU MEAN YOU HAD BEEN FIGHTING *TWO MEN* WHO APPEARED TO BE *ONE?*

PRECISELY! JANUS'S BROTHER PREYED ON HIS *WEAKNESS* TO *COERCE* HIS ASSISTANCE!

SHEESH! ALL THIS PHILOSOPHY'S MESSIN' WITH MY HEAD!

I'LL TAKE A NICE SIMPLE FIGHT WITH DR. DOOM ANY DAY!

BUT JANUS HIMSELF WASN'T *ENTIRELY* BLAMELESS! HE *LET* IT HAPPEN!

EVERY MAN HAS TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN DOING *GOOD* OR *EVIL!*

AND, KNOWING DR. DOOM, WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT!

INSPIRATION
BY DICK AYERS

Working with Stan and Jack was an inspiration.

It started with a telephone call from Stan in which he said he realized I always preferred to do my own penciling, inking and lettering ever since I started working for him in October 1951 and it was then August 1959. Stan asked me to ink a cover for *Wyatt Earp* that Jack Kirby had penciled. I inked it, but I wasn't happy with it because I had just inked as it was penciled. Stan must've seen something he liked for he sent me a six-page monster story, "Monstro, The Menace From The Murky Depths." That story inspired me so much I had fun drawing over the pencils, and Stan liked the inking I did enough that he wrote me a letter in praise of the job that I have framed and hanging on the wall in my studio.

Jack Kirby evidently liked my inking of his monster penciling. He asked me to take the place of Wally Wood and ink his Sunday and Daily *Sky Masters* newspaper strip. That I did from September 1959 until December 1960—123 weeks total. At the same time I was inking the Atlas monster stories and a lot of super-hero stories that were showing increased signs of popularity.

And then, in March 1962, Stan assigned me the sixth issue of *Fantastic Four* to ink. Jack Kirby, of course, penciled. It wasn't our first time working together but, I might say, it was our first time on a tight deadline schedule. I think the three of us thrived on tight schedules. Stan would always put the "date due" at the top of his script's first page and I would always try to be a day or two ahead of that. With Jack there was two deadlines. His *Sky Masters* would always arrive Special Delivery at 7:30 a.m. He was never late either. Stan had a system where, if I hand-delivered a story, he'd hand me a script and, if I was mailing the story and telephoned him the day before, he'd special delivery mail it so I'd have the story the next day and not lose a day's production. We became a trio that must've been a publisher's dream.

I don't think Jack had the advantage I had inking his pencils. Artie Simek lettered the penciled pages before I got them to ink and that meant I got to read Stan's captions and dialog as I inked! I'd get to sense the dramatics Stan wanted and inked accordingly. Jack had the blank page and possibly a synopsis to guide him. To this day when I write a story or a graphic novel, as I am doing this week as I write, I write and letter my story first and then draw to fit my writing with the drawing. That is the benefit of illustrating Stan's scripts. We worked that way for a long time. A telephoned synopsis would more than suffice.

Of all the villains in *Fantastic Four* that I inked, I have one favorite... he's from *FF* #7... his name is Kurrgo, Master of Planet X. It happened that I parted with that page for what amounted to $75.00! And a short time ago I saw it advertised for $2,000.00! I was awakened to an important philosophy. Think about something more than drawing or illustrating—think business.

2006

Stan Lee's letter praising Dick Ayers' inking work over Jack Kirby on *Tales of Suspense* #8's "Monstro." On the basis of his exceptional work on this story, Ayers would become Kirby's main inker at Marvel for the next five years.

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8/25/59

Dick:

You did a swell job inking Kirby's MONSTRO story.

So, here's the cover of that mag for you to ink, also. It's due this Friday 8/28 if possible-- if not, Monday will be okay.

I've enclosed another 6-page strip as well for you to ink. It has a long deadline-- I won't need it till Septemeber 10th. Of course, if you send it to me sooner, that's fine-- but you needn't rush.

I'll try to send you as much inking as I can--- don't expect TOO much because we don't HAVE that much-- these twelve pages in a row is an unusual situation... however, whatever DOES come along I'll give you first crack at.

All best-

Stan

ON, AND ON!
BY JOE SINNOTT

To comment on my association with Stan Lee and Jack Kirby on our incredible run with *The Fantastic Four* is a monumental challenge. As I review the books we worked on, it brings with it the realization of what classics they really were. In my humble opinion, and not because I was part of it, these issues were consistently the best in story and art over an extended period of time that comics ever produced. Of course, the creation of Dr. Doom, who appeared in *Fantastic Four* #5, introduced what was to become Marvel's greatest villain, and he remains so after these many hundreds of stories, but my favorite stretch of the *FF* began with issue #45, "Among Us Hide the Inhumans!" What a wealth of great characters created by Stan and Jack during this period: Black Bolt, Lockjaw, Crystal, Medusa, Gorgon, etc., to be followed up by the mind-boggling combination of Galactus and the Silver Surfer in issue #48.

I can't help but feel that Jack and Stan were at their creative best during the run from #45 into the #50s. "This Man, This Monster" from issue #51 is a favorite of mine, and of many others that I have spoken with down through the years. It was one of Jack's most effective and powerful covers and splashes due to its heartfelt simplicity. The splash to "Among Us Hide the Inhumans" has always been one of my favorites art-wise because I love drawing and inking craggy, broken rocks and falling bricks (more about this later). This brings to mind the cover of *FF* #47—what a great layout by Jack. *And* the broken, craggy, falling rocks—I just love it!

A whole article could be written just on Galactus and the Silver Surfer. What a combination from a pencil-and-ink perspective! Galactus was a time-consuming effort, but well worth it. I must mention what a great cover #49 was, "If This Be Doomsday!" I've been asked to recreate it many times. We all used to look forward to Jack's full-page art. In the "Doomsday" story, page two, see how powerful Galactus is standing before the Watcher!

I always felt that the Silver Surfer was one of Stan and Jack's greatest creations—you could do so much with him. He made the art come alive. "The Startling Saga of the Silver Surfer" was a fun story to work on because of the Surfer, of course, but I also loved it when Johnny and Wyatt Wingfoot were on campus together.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention another favorite character and storyline that I had the satisfaction of working on the first appearance of the Black Panther. *Fantastic Four #52* and #53 were particularly interesting to work on—especially the splash to #53.

Some later books where Jack excelled with his brilliant line art and ideas were "The Thing Enslaved," "Ben Grimm Killer," "Doomsday on the Moon," and "Tomorrow--World War Three!"—all were great joys to be part of. In fact, page eight of "World War Three" (issue #95) is my favorite of all the pages Jack and I collaborated on. I had a ball with it! I could say the same for page six in "Doomsday on the Moon!"—what fun!

In fact, working with Stan and Jack on this long, 102-issue run of *The Fantastic Four* was extremely fun, satisfying and exciting. I've often wished that we could have continued on, and on!

2006

(Above) Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott at a 1975 comic convention. Photo by Mark Sinnott. **(Below)** Joe Sinnott and Stan Lee at a 1995 Sotheby's auction. Photo by Betty Sinnott.

THE FALL OF '61
BY ROY THOMAS

The day in early August of 1961 that I bought *The Fantastic Four* #1 off the stands, it instantly became a comic whose next issue I looked forward to. Even when it had been joined by numerous other Marvel titles before I went to work for Stan Lee in mid-1965, it was still my favorite of them all…mostly because of the ever-lovin', blue-eyed Thing.

I wrote at length about the series' early milestones, and what they meant to me, in the 2005 *The Fantastic Four Omnibus* of the first thirty issues of "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine." So, when asked to write about the *FF* for this landmark tenth *Masterworks* volume, it was tempting to just pick up where I left off and rhapsodize about the "Galactus Trilogy" in #48-50—the Black Panther in #52-53—the Kree in #64-65 (whom I later had go to war with Stan and Jack's Skrulls in *The Avengers*)—"Him" in #67 (whom Gil Kane and I turned into Warlock)—that Dr. Doom riff on TV's *Prisoner* in #84—that planet of the underworld in #92-93 and even about how John Romita took over the penciling chores so masterfully with #103-104 that the sales on *FF* actually went *up* for a time after Jack made his 1970 leap to DC.

But I'll leave it to others to do that, more eloquently than I could. What I thought might be fun to do here would be to reprint the *very first review* the *FF* ever got.

For, as a brand new college grad in August 1961, I sat right down and wrote about *FF* #1 for *Alter-Ego,* the comics fanzine I helped Dr. Jerry Bails put out. Actually, it appeared instead in Jerry's new publication *The Comicollector,* but here's what a few hundred readers encountered when that ad-filled fanzine arrived in their mailboxes, in the fall of '61:

FOUR OF A KIND

It was bound to happen! The Human Torch is back, flaming his way across the heavens, scorching everything in his fiery path.

But wait — something has been added. For this Human Torch is a blond-haired teenager, *whose major interest in life, when he's not setting fire to USAF jets, is tinkering with hot-rods! And he's not* alone, *for with him are three other, new super-heroes: his sister, the Invisible Girl, who fades in and out of sight with alarming irregularity; the group's leader, Mr. Fantastic, who possesses the ability to stretch to an amazing variety of sizes and shapes; and, to top it all off, The Thing, endowed with tremendous physical strength which he (it?) generally uses for good, but looking like a monstrous cross between a walking boulder and a Gil monster!*

Yes, these are The Fantastic Four, *heroes of a new comic put out bi-monthly by Canam Publishers Corporation. Produced by Stan Lee [EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Lee was formerly an editor of the Timely group of comics, which featured the original Human Torch] and Jack Kirby (of the old-time Simon and Kirby team, which originated Captain America, the Guardian, Stuntman, Challengers of the Unknown, and many others), this comic stands somewhere between the* Challengers of the Unknown *and the new* Justice League of America.

Despite its faults — and this first issue has some glaring ones — The Fantastic Four *holds*

promise of becoming one of the better comics now on the stands, in this reviewer's opinion. Especially gratifying is the re-revival of the Torch, undoubtedly one of the most interesting super-hero concepts of all time. The Four's leader, Mr. Fantastic, is also a welcome character, as appearances by Elongated Man in The Flash have so far been too spotty to be satisfying.

The really *outstanding feature of this comic, however — which somehow seems more like a mag of the '40s than of the '60s — is the hero known as The Thing! Not since The Heap ran rampant in the old* Airboy Comics *a decade or more ago has there been such a frightening champion of justice. Perhaps the reader of this comic era — who do not appear to like some of the old ideas — will not take kindly to such an unlikely hero; but I sincerely hope that they do, for something is needed in a period of all-too-handsome supermen to remind us that goodness of heart and an attractive physical appearance are not necessarily synonymous.*

Unfortunately, this first issue also leaves a lot to be desired. Invisible Girl's power, apparently unsupplemented by the ability to walk through walls, etc., is such that her role is a minor one; the three humans wear drab clothing that would never really stand the rigors of a monster-filled adventure such as this one; Mr. Fantastic's stretching power (like that of Elongated Man) is still too limited for him to be considered the true successor of Plastic Man or a great one in his own right; and, worst of all, the drawing of this third version of the Human Torch is almost pathetic in some panels, crying *for a return to something like the old Burgos version.*

It is too early yet to judge fully the Fantastic Four, but I for one cast my vote in favor of them. With a little added imagination in both stories and artwork — plus perhaps the addition of a fifth character, such as the Sub-Mariner or someone like the old Purple Claw — I think this comic would be worthy of a large circulation. One interesting aspect of this comic — are you listening, Don Thompson? — is that The Thing is a rather rebellious creature who is often at the point of fighting to the death with the leader, Mr. Fantastic, and is, to say the least, extremely contemptuous of his leadership. This feature alone, especially if and when the Torch begins to get in on this running feud, would make it well worth any super-hero fan's dime.

However, Alter-Ego *would like to hear from others who have read the first issue, or who purchase the second, which will hit the stands the first week of October. We'd like to hear what other comics fans think of* The Fantastic Four, *its good and bad points. Who knows — this reviewer may have been the only person who bought a copy!*

Roy Thomas

Fortunately, I was wrong about *that* one.

2006

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE
BY MARK EVANIER

One of the many amazing things about the Lee-Kirby run on *Fantastic Four* was that it didn't have to end when it did.

102 issues? (More if you count annuals and specials.) That isn't enough? Not for me, it wasn't.

People cite it as an amazing achievement not just of quantity or quality but of quantity *of* quality. I've heard other writers and artists speak of the benchmark as some world record they could never hope to equal…but really, Stan and Jack did it without breaking much of a sweat. They were both very prolific and how many issues they did of a book had everything to do with where they were needed.

Jack Kirby drew seven issues of *The Avengers* before Stan decided he needed Jack on some other book. If Stan had left him there, Jack would have drawn 102 issues of *The Avengers*.

Or more. He only left *Fantastic Four* when he did because he left Marvel, and he only left Marvel because of a business dispute with the folks then in charge of the company. If that hadn't happened, Jack could have done another 102 issues. He could have done a lot more than that, even. The man had a fierce work ethic and prided himself on never "burning out," of always finding a way to keep it fresh and challenging.

And if the contractual quarrel had been resolved and Jack had stayed, I'll bet Stan would have, too. Not long afterward, he moved more into the business division and also into managing Marvel's TV and movie projects. Still, if Jack had been there to do what he did on *Fantastic Four*, I just bet Stan would have made the time to work on it. I'm sorry that didn't happen.

I have two personal stories that oughta be in this book. One was from the day I first met Jack Kirby, which was the second Tuesday in July of 1969. A group of my friends and I motored down to Irvine, California where he and his family were then living.

Just coming off Kirby's battered, well-worn drawing table was *Fantastic Four* #97, "The Monster From the Lost Lagoon," which appears in this volume. It was almost finished—a few figures were still in rough pencil—and it was magnificent. My friends and I had never seen uninked Kirby pencil art before and we were stunned. As good as most of Jack's many inkers were, there was something magical about Kirby art in the raw, unembellished state.

In the fourth panel of page five, there was a figure of Johnny Storm walking towards his sister and waving. It was one of the drawings Jack had not yet completed.

My friends had mentioned to Jack that I was an artist, which was stretching the definition of that word beyond all recognition. I drew a little, certainly not at a professional level. To my amazement, Jack asked me to sit at his drawing board, pick up one of his pencils and finish the drawing of Johnny Storm.

I thought he was kidding. *Me?* I told him my abilities were far below the standard of even the

poorest-drawn comic book, let alone one drawn by Jack "King" Kirby. "Don't worry," he said. "Just draw his hand. It'll be fine." And he sat me down, handed me a pencil and wandered over to light his pipe as, fingers trembling, I drew in an outstretched hand on the figure.

I drew very lightly, figuring that as soon as we left, he'd erase what I'd done and do it properly. Which I'm sure is just what he did.

Later—years later—I realized why he'd had me do that, and it wasn't to test me out as a potential assistant. (That kind of assistant, Kirby neither wanted nor needed.) Jack loved to inspire young talent, and he thought it would inspire me to be even a small part of a real comic book. Which I guess it did.

I don't think "The Monster From the Lost Lagoon" was the best story Lee and Kirby ever did. I wouldn't even put it in their top fifty. But there will always be something special about it to me. That one panel, especially.

The other story: A few months later, Jack did hire me as an assistant, mostly for things other than drawing. Almost one year to the day after I met Kirby, I paid my first visit to the Marvel offices in New York and met, among others whose work I'd long admired, John Romita. He was sitting at his drawing table, working on his second issue of *Fantastic Four*, trembling pretty much the way I'd trembled when Jack had made me draw in that hand.

When he heard who I worked for, he sat me down and we chatted for a half-hour or so. John did not feel equal to the assignment before him and hoped, I guess, that just speaking of Jack would give him some insight. Perhaps I'd absorbed a few bolts of Kirby energy and could transmit them to him.

I guess it was an intimidating thing, following Kirby like that. Johnny Romita was one of my favorite artists...the guy who'd replaced Steve Ditko on Spider-Man. I reminded him that a lot of us had thought no one could ever succeed on that strip and he had. "Yeah," he muttered. "But this is The World's Greatest Comic Magazine." He took it so seriously that it did not surprise me that he drew one more issue, then handed off to John Buscema.

Was the *Fantastic Four* The World's Greatest Comic Magazine? I can think of other contenders, including a few by Lee and Kirby. Still, viewed as a body of work, ringing in innovations and laying the foundation for The Marvel Age of Comics, those 102 issues sure looked and felt like The World's Greatest Comic Magazine. All the Marvel books of that era were filled with excitement but there was something about a new *F.F.* When you picked it up, you never knew what new, exciting element would be in there...but you knew there'd be something.

Stan and Jack never let us down. Not for 102 issues, they didn't.

Mark EVANIER

2006

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD
BY GREG THEAKSTON

As the '60s drew to a close everything was as different as it could be from the decade's start.

When the first issue of *The Fantastic Four* hit the stands Kennedy was President, television was broadcast in black and white, most Americans had never heard of Viet Nam, and the space-race had just begun

Ten years is a long time in the entertainment industry, and in the comics in particular. At Marvel (then known as Atlas), prior to the super-hero revival, artists made their living doing hit-and-run eight page features for the anthology books, and there was a shifting-sands feeling in the air at all times. Marvel had nearly gone out of business four years before, and it seemed like it might happen again at any minute. From high-man Stan down to the letterers, everyone was nervous.

Then, very quietly, a step at a time, Marvel took root and grew. Three years later, the sharecropper creators had now settled at the Goodman Plantation, and work seemed reasonably guaranteed. As a bonus, the stories were far more interesting to both the talent and readers alike. The longer tales allowed for character development and continuity of situation, with previously unseen complexity.

And it wasn't just the books that were changing. Working conditions at Marvel didn't resemble the way the rest of the business was punching out the comics. The artists actually got to hash out the story with the writer/editor, and were given much latitude in the pacing and direction of the tales they were telling. As the books developed, Lee began to knit a universe where everybody knew everybody else, and there were more guest stars than the Batman television show.

The change the public never got to see was the newfound confidence around the office. Now, there was no chance Goodman was going to pull the rug out from under them as Marvel challenged the competition in a way they hadn't for years. Eventually, distribution loosened up and new titles were piled onto the roster. Stan jumped from writer/editor into the publisher seat, Steve Ditko left, fresh talent arrived, and new offices were populated by a large production staff famously known as the Batty Bullpen.

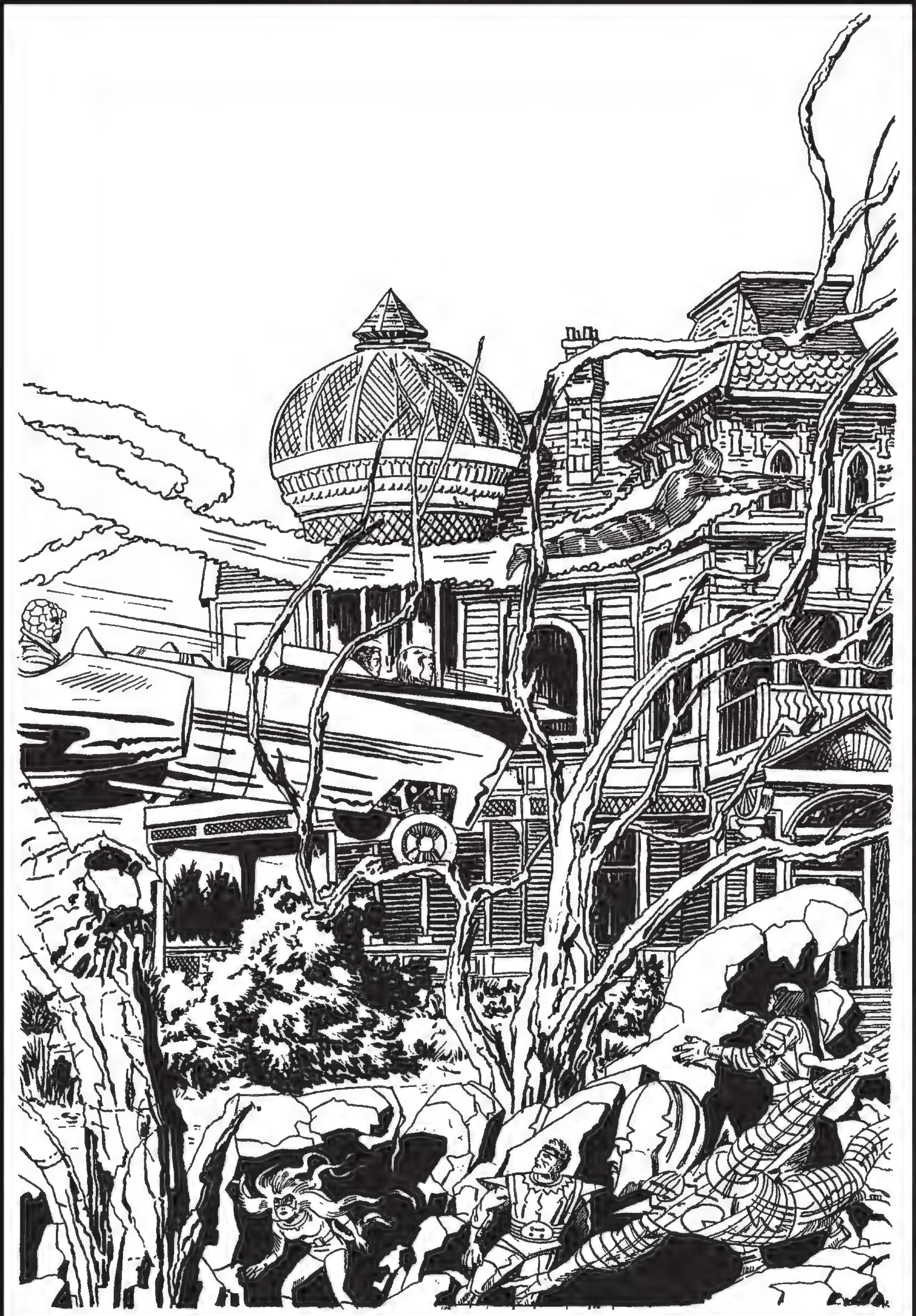
Jack Kirby saw and felt the change as well. After a decade on *Thor* and *The Fantastic Four*, he was ready to institute a whole new wave of heroes, built on the foundations of his previous creations. However, lack of control of those creations vexed him, and it was only a matter of time before he left the company.

This volume completes Stan and Jack's 103-issue collaboration that birthed an entire universe, and is the demarcation point between the battle to create a new, successful comics company and the smooth-sailing home of popular icons. 45 rpm records had given way to stereo albums, black and white movies to color, and brush-cuts to Hippie hair...and man had finally walked on the moon.

A decade later everything had changed, especially Marvel Comics.

2006

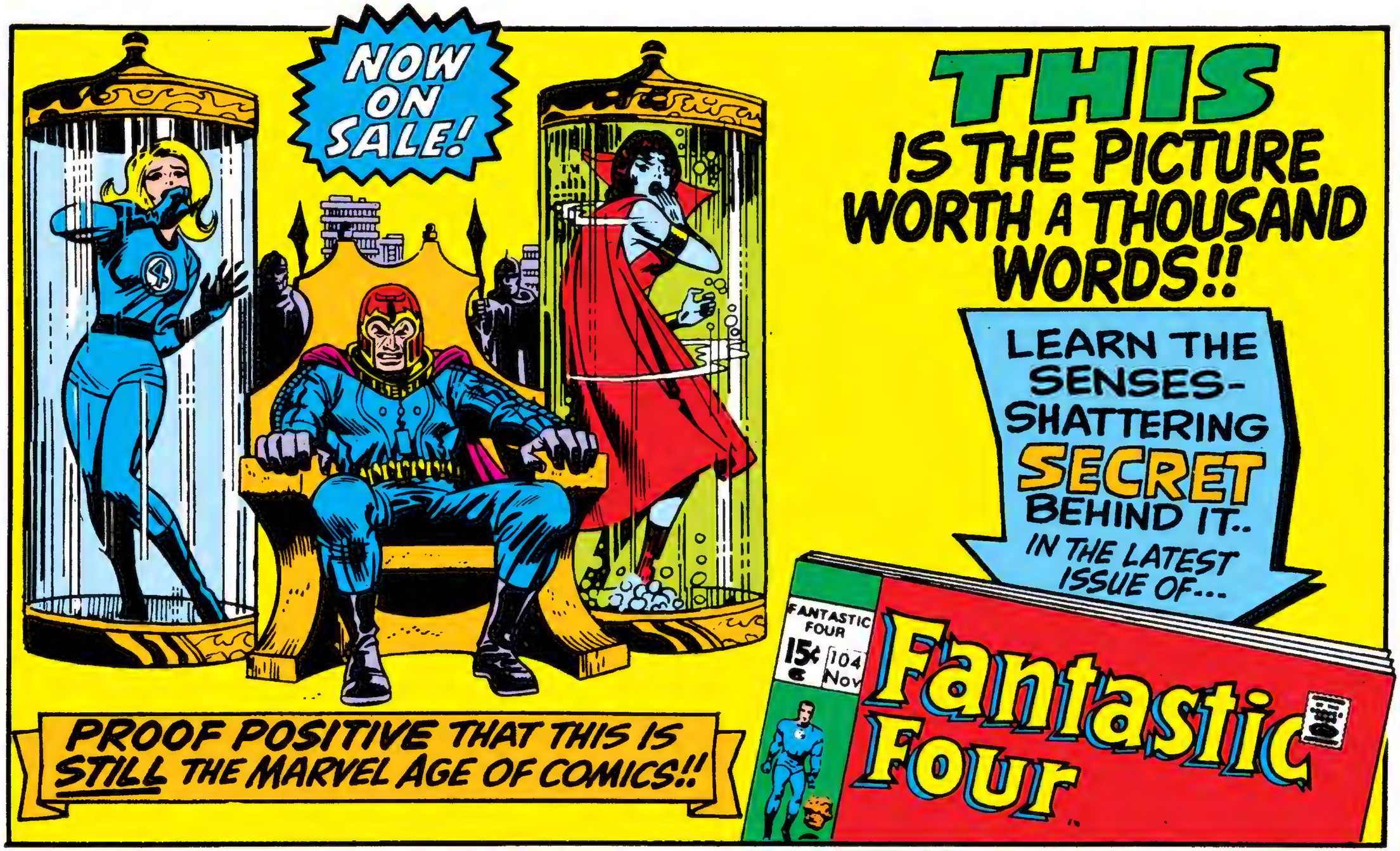
The Fantastic Four #94 unused cover art
by Jack Kirby & unknown



The Fantastic Four #100 cover original art
by Jack Kirby & Joe Sinnott

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

The Fantastic Four #104 house ad
from November 1970 titles


NOW ON SALE!
THIS IS THE PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!!
LEARN THE SENSES-SHATTERING SECRET BEHIND IT..
IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF...
FANTASTIC FOUR
15¢
104
Nov
Fantastic Four
PROOF POSITIVE THAT THIS IS STILL THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!!

The First One Hundred (and Two) Days: A Lee/Kirby *Fantastic Four* Lexicon

In 1961 America rocketed into the space race with its eyes set on the moon. Meanwhile, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby launched the Marvel Universe on a trip beyond anyone's wildest imagination. Across 102 consecutive issues of *The Fantastic Four*, the fruits of their creative collaboration remain unparalleled more than 50 years later.

Fantastic Four #1 (Nov. '61) - *Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Girl, Human Torch, Thing, Mole Man, Moloids*

Fantastic Four #2 (Jan. '62) - *Skrulls*

Fantastic Four #3 (Mar. '62) - *Miracle Man, first FF in costume, the Fantasti-car, the Baxter Building*

Fantastic Four #4 (May '62) - Sub-Mariner, *Giganto*

Fantastic Four #5 (Jul. '62) - *Dr. Doom, Doombots*

Fantastic Four #6 (Sep. '62) - Sub-Mariner, Dr. Doom, *The Yancy Street Gang*

Fantastic Four #7 (Oct. '62) - *Kurrgo*

Fantastic Four #8 (Nov. '62) - *Alicia Masters, Puppet Master*

Fantastic Four #9 (Dec. '62) - Sub-Mariner, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Alfred Hitchcock, Jim Arness, Dean Martin, Jackie Gleason, Amanda Blake

Fantastic Four #10 (Jan. '63) - Alicia Masters, Dr. Doom, Stan Lee, Jack Kirby

Fantastic Four #11 (Feb. '63) - *Willie Lumpkin, Impossible Man*

Fantastic Four #12 (Mar. '63) - Gen. Thunderbolt Ross, Rick Jones, Hulk, *The Wrecker (Karl Kort),* Captain Nelson

Fantastic Four #13 (Apr. '63) - *Red Ghost, the Super-Apes (Mikhlo, Igor, Peotor), The Watcher (Uatu), Blue Area of the Moon*

Fantastic Four #14 (May '63) - Alicia Masters, Puppet Master, Sub-Mariner

Fantastic Four #15 (Jun. '63) - *Mad Thinker, the Awesome Android*

Fantastic Four #16 (Jul. '63) - Wasp, Ant-Man, Alicia Masters, *Princess Pearla,* Dr. Doom

Fantastic Four #17 (Aug. '63) - Dr. Doom, Alicia Masters, Ant-Man, John F. Kennedy

Fantastic Four #18 (Sep. '63) - *Super-Skrull, Skrull Emperor Dorrek*

Fantastic Four #19 (Oct. '63) - *Rama-Tut,* Alicia Masters,

Fantastic Four #20 (Nov. '63) - *Molecule Man,* Alicia Masters, The Watcher

Fantastic Four Annual #1 (1963) - Sub-Mariner, Lady Dorma, *Warlord Krang,* Princess Fen, Alicia Masters, Leonard McKenzie, Nikita Khrushchev; Spider-Man

Fantastic Four #21 (Dec. '63) - *Hate-Monger (Adolf Hitler),* Nick Fury (as C.I.A. colonel), Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #22 (Jan. '64) - Mole Man

Fantastic Four #23 (Feb. '64) - *Bull Brogin, Handsome Harry Phillips, Yogi Dakor,* Dr. Doom

Fantastic Four #24 (Mar. '64) - *Infant Terrible,* Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #25 (Apr. '64) - Hulk, Rick Jones, The Avengers (Iron Man, Wasp, Captain America, Thor, Giant-Man), Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #26 (May '64) - Hulk, Rick Jones, The Avengers (Iron Man, Wasp, Captain America, Thor, Giant-Man)

Fantastic Four #27 (Jun. '64) - Sub-Mariner, Dr. Strange

Fantastic Four #28 (Jul. '64) - Mad Thinker, the Awesome Android, Puppet Master, Alicia Masters, Professor Xavier, The X-Men (Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Beast, Iceman)

Fantastic Four #29 (Aug. '64) - Red Ghost, the Super-Apes (Mikhlo, Igor, Peotor), Alicia Masters, The Watcher

Fantastic Four #30 (Sep. '64) - *Diablo*

Fantastic Four Annual #2 (1964) - Dr. Doom (origin), *Boris, Werner Von Doom, Latveria;* Rama-Tut

Fantastic Four #31 (Oct. '64) - *Franklin Storm,* Mole Man, The Avengers (Iron Man, Wasp, Giant-Man, Thor, Captain America)

Fantastic Four #32 (Nov. '64) - Super-Skrull, death of Franklin Storm, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #33 (Dec. '64) - Sub-Mariner, *Attuma,* Dorma

Fantastic Four #34 (Jan. '65) - *Gregory Gideon, Thomas Gideon,* Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #35 (Feb. '65) - *Dragon Man, Gregson Gilbert,* Diablo, Prof. Xavier, Scott Summers, Peter Parker, *Reed and Sue engaged*

Fantastic Four #36 (Mar. '65) - *The Frightful Four* (*Medusa,* Wizard, Sandman, Paste-Pot Pete), Professor Xavier, The X-Men (Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Beast, Iceman), The Avengers (Iron Man, Wasp, Captain America, Thor, Giant-Man), Alicia Masters, Rick Jones

Fantastic Four #37 (Apr. '65) - *Skrull Princess Anelle, Morrat,* Skrull Emporer Dorrek, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #38 (May '65) - The Frightful Four (Medusa, Wizard, Sandman, Trapster [formerly Paste-Pot Pete])

Fantastic Four #39 (Jun. '65) - Dr. Doom, Daredevil

Fantastic Four #40 (Jul. '65) - Dr. Doom, Daredevil

Fantastic Four #41 (Aug. '65) - The Frightful Four (Medusa, Wizard, Sandman, Trapster), Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #42 (Sept. '65) - The Frightful Four (Medusa, Wizard, Sandman, Trapster)

Fantastic Four #43 (Oct. '65) - The Frightful Four (Medusa, Wizard, Sandman, Trapster), Dr. Doom

Fantastic Four Annual #3 (1965) - *Wedding of Reed and Sue,* Spider-Man, The X-Men (Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Beast, Iceman), Professor Xavier, The Avengers (Captain America, Quicksilver, Hawkeye), Dr. Strange, Iron Man, Thor, Daredevil, Foggy Nelson, Karen Page, Alicia Masters, Rick Jones, Nick Fury, Gabe Jones, Dum Dum Dugan, Patsy Walker, Hedy Wolfe, Dr. Doom, Puppet Master, Red Ghost, the Super-Apes (Mikhlo, Igor, Peotor), Mole Man, Grey Gargoyle, Mandarin, Kang, Black Knight II, Enchantress, Executioner, Cobra, Mr. Hyde, Unicorn, Eel, Electro, Human Top, Diablo, Porcupine, Beetle, Living Laser, Super-Skrull, Mad Thinker, the Awesome Android, Attuma, The Watcher, Stan Lee, Jack Kirby

Fantastic Four #44 (Nov. '65) - Medusa, Dragon Man, *Gorgon*

Fantastic Four #45 (Dec. '65) - Dragon Man, Sandman, Trapster, *The Inhumans (*Gorgon, *Black Bolt, Triton, Karnak, Crystal, Lockjaw)*

Fantastic Four #46 (Jan. '66) - *Seeker,* The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Triton, Karnak, Crystal, Lockjaw, Medusa), Dragon Man

Fantastic Four #47 (Feb. '66) - *Maximus the Mad, Alpha Primitives, Attilan,* Seeker, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Triton, Karnak, Crystal, Lockjaw, Medusa), Dragon Man, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #48 (Mar. '66) - The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Karnak, Crystal, Medusa), Maximus, Seeker, *Silver Surfer, Galactus,* The Watcher, Skrulls

Fantastic Four #49 (Apr. '66) - Galactus, The Watcher, Silver Surfer, *Punisher*, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #50 (May '66) - Galactus, Silver Surfer, The Watcher, *the Ultimate Nullifier*, Alicia Masters, *Ricardo Jones, Johnny leaves for college, Coach Thorne, Belle Thorne, Whitey Mullins, Dean Asher, Wyatt Wingfoot*

Fantastic Four #51 (Jun. '66) - Ricardo Jones, Alicia Masters, *The Negative Zone,* Wyatt Wingfoot, Whitey Mullins, Coach Thorne, Belle Thorne

Fantastic Four #52 (Jul. '66) - *Black Panther, Wakanda,* Wyatt Wingfoot, Maximus, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Karnak, Crystal, Medusa)

Fantastic Four #53 (Aug. '66) - Black Panther, *Klaw, Vibranium,* Wyatt Wingfoot

Fantastic Four #54 (Sep. '66) - The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Karnak, Triton, Medusa, Crystal), Maximus, Black Panther, Wyatt Wingfoot, *Wanderer (Prester John)*

Fantastic Four #55 (Oct. '66) - Silver Surfer, Alicia Masters, Wyatt Wingfoot, Lockjaw

Fantastic Four #56 (Nov. '66) - Klaw, Silver Surfer, Maximus, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Gorgon, Karnak, Medusa, Crystal, Lockjaw), Wyatt Wingfoot, Black Panther, Dr. Doom

Fantastic Four Annual #4 (1966) - Mad Thinker, *Quasimodo,* original Human Torch, Lockjaw, Wyatt Wingfoot

Fantastic Four #57 (Dec. '66) - Dr. Doom, Silver Surfer, Sandman, Wizard, Wyatt Wingfoot, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Crystal, Lockjaw), Maximus

Fantastic Four #58 (Jan. '67) - Dr. Doom, Silver Surfer, Wyatt Wingfoot, Lockjaw

Fantastic Four #59 (Feb. '67) - Dr. Doom, Silver Surfer, Wyatt Wingfoot, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Crystal), Maximus

Fantastic Four #60 (Mar. '67) - Dr. Doom, Silver Surfer, Wyatt Wingfoot, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Crystal), The Watcher

Fantastic Four #61 (Apr. '67) - Silver Surfer, Sandman, Wyatt Wingfoot, Coach Thorne, Peter Parker, Mary Jane Watson, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Crystal, Lockjaw)

Fantastic Four #62 (May '67) - *Blastaar,* Sandman, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Crystal, Lockjaw)

Fantastic Four #63 (Jun. '67) - Blastaar, Sandman, Triton, Crystal

Fantastic Four #64 (Jul. '67) - *Kree Sentry 459,* Crystal, Triton, Lockjaw

Fantastic Four #65 (Aug. '67) - *Ronan the Accuser, Kree Supreme Intelligence,* Crystal, Alicia Masters, *Jerome Hamilton*

Fantastic Four #66 (Sep. '67) - Crystal, Alicia Masters, *The Enclave* (Jerome Hamilton, *Carlo Zota, Wladyslav Shinski, Maris Morlak*), *The Beehive*

Fantastic Four #67 (Oct. '67) - Crystal, Alicia Masters, The Enclave (Jerome Hamilton, Maris Morlak, Wladyslav Shinski, Carlo Zota), *Him (Adam Warlock)*

Fantastic Four Annual #5 (1967) - *Psycho-Man, Live Wire, Ivan, Shell-Shock,* Black Panther, The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Medusa, Crystal, Lockjaw), *Sue announces pregnancy;* Stan Lee, Jack Kirby; Silver Surfer, Quasimodo

Fantastic Four #68 (Nov. '67) - Mad Thinker, *Jose Santini,* Crystal, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #69 (Dec. '67) - Mad Thinker, Jose Santini, Crystal, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #70 (Jan. '68) - Mad Thinker, Jose Santini, *Mad Thinker's Killer Android,* Crystal

Fantastic Four #71 (Feb. '68) - Mad Thinker's Killer Android, Crystal

Fantastic Four #72 (Mar. '68) - Silver Surfer, The Watcher, Crystal, *Sue takes leave from team*

Fantastic Four #73 (Apr. '68) - Daredevil, Spider-Man, Thor

Fantastic Four #74 (May '68) - Silver Surfer, Galactus, Punisher, Crystal, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #75 (Jun. '68) - Galactus, Silver Surfer, *The Microverse,* Crystal

Fantastic Four #76 (Jul. '68) - Galactus, Silver Surfer, Crystal, Psycho-Man

Fantastic Four #77 (Aug. '68) - Galactus, Silver Surfer, Crystal, Psycho-Man

Fantastic Four #78 (Sep. '68) - Wizard, Crystal

Fantastic Four #79 (Oct. '68) - Crystal, *Sergius O'Hoolihan,* Alicia Masters, *Mad Thinker's Powerhouse Android*

Fantastic Four #80 (Nov. '68) - Wyatt Wingfoot, *Silent Fox, Tomazooma*

Fantastic Four Annual #6 (1968) - *Annihilus, birth of Reed and Sue's son*

Fantastic Four #81 (Dec. '68) - Wizard, *Crystal joins team*

Fantastic Four #82 (Jan. '69) - The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa, Lockjaw), Maximus, *Zorr*

Fantastic Four #83 (Feb. '69) - The Inhumans (Black Bolt, Karnak, Gorgon, Triton, Medusa), Maximus, Zorr, Baby Richards

Fantastic Four #84 (Mar. '69) - Dum Dum Dugan, Nick Fury, Dr. Doom

Fantastic Four #85 (Apr. '69) - Dr. Doom, *Hauptmann*

Fantastic Four #86 (May '69) - Dr. Doom, Hauptmann, *Sue returns to team*

Fantastic Four #87 (Jun. '69) - Dr. Doom, Hauptmann

Fantastic Four #88 (Jul. '69) - Mole Man, Baby Richards, Alicia Masters

Fantastic Four #89 (Aug. '69) - Mole Man, *Skrull Slaver*

Fantastic Four #90 (Sep. '69) - Mole Man, Alicia Masters, Baby Richards, Skrull Slaver

Fantastic Four #91 (Oct. '69) - Alicia Masters, Baby Richards, Skrull Slaver, *Boss Barker, Slave-Keeper, Taxtor, Torgo*

Fantastic Four #92 (Nov. '69) - Torgo, Slave-Keeper

Fantastic Four #93 (Dec. '69) - Torgo, Boss Barker, Skrull Slaver

Fantastic Four #94 (Jan. '70) - *Baby Richards named (Franklin Benjamin Richards),* The Frightful Four, (Medusa, Sandman, Wizard, Trapster, *Agatha Harkness, Ebony*

Fantastic Four #95 (Feb. '70) - Medusa, *Monocle*

Fantastic Four #96 (Mar. '70) - Mad Thinker, *Mr. Fantastic Android, Human Torch Android, Invisible Girl Android, Thing Android*

Fantastic Four #97 (Apr. '70) - Franklin Richards, *Quon male, Quon female*

Fantastic Four #98 (May '70) - Alicia Masters, Franklin Richards, Kree Sentry 459, Neil Armstrong

Fantastic Four #99 (Jun. '70) - The Inhumans (Medusa, Black Bolt, Triton, Karnak, Gorgon)

Fantastic Four #100 (Jul. '70) - Puppet Master, Mad Thinker, *androids (Kree Sentry, Dragon Man, Kang, Dr. Doom, Sub-Mariner, Hate-Monger, Wizard, Sandman, Hulk, Red Ghost, the Super-Apes [Mikhlo, Igor, Peotor])*

Fantastic Four #101 (Aug. '70) - *Gimlet, Top Man*, Alicia Masters, Franklin Richards

Fantastic Four #102 (Sep. '70) - Sub-Mariner, Magneto, Franklin Richards

•Blue type denotes first appearance

Research by Sean Kleefeld

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust in to the Depression-era economy. Meanwhile, Martin Goodman's Timely Comics needed staff, and Stan, Goodman's wife's cousin, joined as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so for his comic book work he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

He quickly graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories, and before long his proficiency on the job earned him the position of managing editor while still a teenager. His tenure in the '50s saw the company's expansion (under the name Atlas) to include horror, crime, Western, war, satire and romance comics.

All this was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists including the formidably talented Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to find a way to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Lee figured he would co-opt the super-hero revival at DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Marvel's heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just as the average person might.

Lee's innovation sent shock waves throughout comics, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold. Under his direction, the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and the Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Lee developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus broadening the story possibilities for eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Lee also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Lee wrote virtually every comic that Marvel published during the '60s. But when he was promoted to publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Lee has returned to write scripts for the occasional single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. His standing in the field was recognized with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994, and to this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 and grew up in New York's gritty Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the name Jack Kirby, but his experiences in the neighborhood would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations would never dream of going.

After early strip work helped get his name out to employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed Captain America for Timely Comics, and Kirby immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon and Kirby were working at National/DC, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like Sandman and Manhunter. He served honorably in World War II, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

After the war, Simon and Kirby established the romance genre with *Young Romance*, produced titles including *Boy's Ranch*, *Black Magic* and *Fighting American*, and started their own imprint, Mainline. Kirby followed with *Challengers of the Unknown*, Green Arrow and the strip *Sky Masters of the Space Force*. By 1958, he began a prolific output at Atlas/Marvel that covered Western, war and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Kirby brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters.

Through it all, he earned the nickname "The King," and his way of doing things became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated on to books by working over Kirby's layouts. Kirby left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling scripting chores as well as art duties. His "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the late '70s to lend his imagination to *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur* and *Machine Man*. He also returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Kirby was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

JOHN ROMITA

Without question one of the most loved and influential artists to grace the pages of Marvel Comics, John Romita was born in 1930 and, fresh out of a fine arts high school, quickly joined the ranks of comic-book artists. Romita broke into the field at Atlas, the 1950s incarnation of Marvel Comics, contributing to their many war, Western, horror, and jungle adventure series, as well as the 1953-54 revival of Captain America.

After the 1957 Atlas implosion, he moved to DC, working on romance titles including *Secret Hearts*, *Girls' Love Stories* and *Young Love*. It wasn't until 1966 that he returned to Marvel and the super-hero genre in the pages of *Daredevil* #12-19, including a guest appearance by a certain friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Having done such a confident rendering of Spider-Man in the pages of *Daredevil*, it was an easy choice to tap Romita as the new artist on what was fast becoming Marvel's most important title—*The Amazing Spider-Man*.

After a few issues struggling in the mold of Steve Ditko, Romita came into his own with a bold style regarded as one of the most iconic in comic-book art. John developed a look for Peter Parker and his world that would define the character for years to come. His more muscular and firm figure drawings added a bolder flair to the book, and his years of drawing beautiful women in DC's romance books paid off big-time with definitive renderings of Gwen Stacy and the introduction of Mary Jane Watson.

For the better part of the next seven years, Romita drew *The Amazing Spider-Man* (spelled at times by Gil Kane). He also did a brief stint on *The Fantastic Four*, being the first to draw the book after Jack Kirby's 103-issue tenure, and returned to Captain America for another acclaimed run.

It was about this time when Romita was anointed art director for Marvel. Though his responsibilities kept him from drawing a monthly series, John had perhaps an even greater influence over the look and feel of the line. In addition to drawing countless covers, he also designed characters from the Punisher to Wolverine as well as the Spider-Man balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He also trained the next generation of artists in Marvel's Art Department, known as Romita's Raiders.

Romita's stature in the field was recognized by his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2002. To this day, though semi-retired, Romita steps up to the drawing board to lend his mastery of the medium to the occasional cover or story. Beyond that, though, the Romita legacy is in safekeeping with John Romita Jr., who is now—much like his father was at the height of his career—setting the tempo for the look of Marvel Comics.

RON FRENZ

Few can match Ron Frenz when it comes to consistency and longevity as an artist. He notched accomplished runs on the field's two most revered and influential characters, Spider-Man and Superman, and carried each through controversial new costume designs. When the 22-year-old broke into the industry, he began as co-penciler of *Ka-Zar the Savage*, and then *Star Wars*. Proving himself on those books, Frenz succeeded John Romita Jr. on *Amazing Spider-Man*, his artwork channeling Steve Ditko's original web-slinger. Next, he joined Tom DeFalco on a six-year-long run on *Thor* with a new look and identity for Marvel's Thunder God. Their efforts led to *Thunderstrike*, a spin-off title featuring Eric Masterson, and the creation of the New Warriors. After an influential run on DC's *Superman*, Frenz returned to Marvel to team with DeFalco on the launch of the MC2 Universe, home of Spider-Girl, the fan-favorite Marvel heroine, for which he drew dozens of issues right up to her final miniseries, *Spectacular Spider-Girl*. In 2001, Frenz joined Kurt Busiek and Erik Larsen on their revival of *The Defenders*, and was part of the jam unit that drew the Lee/Kirby homage *Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Comics Magazine*. His most recent project is the 2013 IDW revival of *G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero* with series originator Larry Hama.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS
ALSO AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-15
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-2
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-13
THE BLACK PANTHER VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-4
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-7
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-4
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-6
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-15
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-7
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-8
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-2
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOL. 1
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-5
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-12
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

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THE F.F. ARE BEATEN AT LAST!
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